

The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs

Translated by RH Charles, with Restored Names & Hebrew Words

From The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament by R. H. Charles, vol. II, Oxford Press

Edited by SetApart Servants.

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From the Editor

This text was copied exactly from the R.H. Charles translation, with edits to replace titles with names, as well as updating a few older words. We have also chosen to replace the term “law” with the transliteration of the Hebrew word for law “Torah”. The Torah is the first 5 books of modern day cannons, and contains the bulk of the commandments, statutes, and guidelines for those who seek to be righteous. We hope this book blesses you, as much as it has blessed us. The additional details, and importance placed on being obedient to the Torah of Yahuah, is something to be treasured. A complete list of words that were changed will be noted below, May Yahuah bless the Reader in Spirit and in Truth. HalleluYah. ~ Set Apart Servants.

Changes to the text In this Edition, we have replaced many English words, and names, with the transliteration of the Hebrew word found in the original text. For example, the word “peace” has been replaced with “Shalom”. See a full list of changes after the table of contents.

We replaced “the Lord” with **Yahuah**. While studying to show ourselves approved we came across the tetragrammaton. In the Hebrew text, the name of the Father can clearly be seen as four letters. Yod-Hay-Uau-Hay this can be pronounced Yah-hu-ah, and is transliterated as Yahuah. Modern day translators, under Jewish influence have opted to replace the name of the Father, with a title. We see this as a great disservice to the relationship between the Reader, and their Creator. For this reason we have replaced a title for the Father, with his true name, **Yahuah**.

We replaced “God” with **Elohiym**. Much like the above change, this also reverts the title, to a transliteration. While replacing this we also changed the term “Godly” & “UnGodly” with the biblical terms “Righteous” & “UnRighteous”. This change draws the reader back to the real meaning behind the words we use today, that have lost their meaning over time. To be “Godly” means you are acting Righteously, which means to be obedient to Yahuah's commandments.

We replaced “ye” with **you**. A simple change to help enhance the Reader’s ability to focus on important things in the text, rather than our minds being tripped up by an old English word we're not used to saying. By making this change, no meanings or understandings of the verses change.

We replaced “Law” with **Torah**. Again, another transliteration over new word change. Which draws the reader back to the location of the commandments & statutes, rather than a new word.

We replaced “gentiles” with “nations”, restoring the true meaning of the word.

We replaced “sin” with “transgression”, again, restoring the true meaning of the word (1 John 3:4)

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English words Replaced with Hebrew Transliterations

Peace, transliterated from Hebrew as **Shalom**

Heaven, transliterated from Hebrew as **Shamaiym**

Holy, transliterated from Hebrew as **Qodesh**

THE TESTAMENT OF REUBEN, THE FIRST-BORN OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH

Chapter 1 The copy of the Testament of Reuben, even the commands which he gave his sons before he died in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. Two years after the death of Yoceph his brother, when Reuben fell ill, his sons and his sons' sons were gathered together to visit him. And he said to them: My children, behold I am dying, and go the way of my fathers. And seeing there Yahudah, and Gad, and Asher, his brethren, he said to them: Raise me up, that I may tell to my brethren and to my children what things I have hidden in my heart, for behold now at length I am passing away. And he arose and kissed them, and said unto them: Hear, my brethren, and do you, my children, give ear to Reuben your father in the commands which I give unto you. And behold I call to witness against you this day the Elohiym of shamaïym, that you walk not in the transgressions of youth and fornication, wherein I was poured out, and defiled the bed of my father Ya'acob. And I tell you that he smote me with a sore plague in my loins for seven months; and had not my father Ya'acob prayed for me to Yahuah, He would have destroyed me. For I was thirty years old when I wrought the evil thing before Yahuah, and for seven months I was sick unto death. And after this I repented with set purpose of my soul for seven years before Yahuah. And wine and strong drink I drank not, and flesh entered not into my mouth, and I ate no pleasant food; but I mourned over my transgression, for it was great, such as had not been in Yashar'el.

Chapter 2 And now hear me, my children, what things I saw concerning the seven spirits of deceit, when I repented. Seven spirits therefore are appointed against man, and they are the leaders in the works of youth. And seven other spirits are given to him at his creation, that through them should be done every work of man. The first is the spirit of life, with which the constitution of man is created. The second is the sense of sight, with which ariseth desire. The third is the sense of hearing, with which cometh teaching. The fourth is the sense of smell, with which tastes are given to draw air and breath. The fifth is the power of speech, with which cometh knowledge. The sixth is the sense of taste, with which cometh the eating of meats and drinks; and by it strength is produced, for in food is the foundation of strength. The seventh is the power of procreation and sexual intercourse, with which through love of pleasure transgressions enter in. Wherefore it is the last in order of creation, and the first in that of youth, because it is filled with ignorance, and leadeth the youth as a blind man to a pit, and as a beast to a precipice.

Chapter 3 Besides all these there is an eighth spirit of sleep, with which is brought about the trance of nature and the image of death. With these spirits are mingled the spirits of error. First, the spirit of fornication is seated in the nature and in the senses; the second, the spirit of insatiableness, in the belly; the third, the spirit of fighting, in the liver and gall. The fourth is the spirit of obsequiousness and chicanery, that through officious attention one may be fair in seeming. The fifth is the spirit of pride, that one may be boastful and arrogant. The sixth is the spirit of lying, in perdition and jealousy to practise deceits, and concealments from kindred and friends. The seventh is the spirit of injustice, with which are thefts and acts of rapacity, that a man may fulfill the desire of his heart; for injustice worketh together with the other spirits by

the taking of gifts. And with all these the spirit of sleep is joined which is that of error and fantasy. And so perisheth every young man, darkening his mind from the truth, and not understanding the Torah of Elohiym, nor obeying the admonitions of his fathers as befell me also in my youth. And now, my children, love the truth, and it will preserve you: hear you the words of Reuben your father. Pay no heed to the face of a woman, Nor associate with another man's wife, Nor meddle with affairs of womankind. For had I not seen Bilhah bathing in a covered place, I had not fallen into this great iniquity. For my mind taking in the thought of the woman's nakedness, suffered me not to sleep until I had wrought the abominable thing. For while Ya'acob our father had gone to Isaac his father, when we were in Eder, near to Ephrath in Bethlehem, Bilhah became drunk and was asleep uncovered in her chamber. Having therefore gone in and beheld nakedness, I wrought the impiety without her perceiving it, and leaving her sleeping I departed. And forthwith an angel of Elohiym revealed to my father concerning my impiety, and he came and mourned over me, and touched her no more.

Chapter 4 Pay no heed, therefore, my children, to the beauty of women, nor set your mind on their affairs; but walk in singleness of heart in the fear of Yahuah, and expend labour on good works, and on study and on your flocks, until Yahuah give you a wife, whom He will, that you suffer not as I did. For until my father's death I had not boldness to look in his face, or to speak to any of my brethren, because of the reproach. Even until now my conscience causeth me anguish on account of my impiety. And yet my father comforted me much and prayed for me unto Yahuah, that the anger of Yahuah might pass from me, even as Yahuah showed. And thenceforth until now I have been on my guard and transgressed not. Therefore, my children, I say unto you, observe all things whatsoever I command you, and you shall not transgress. For a pit unto the soul is the transgression of fornication, separating it from Elohiym, and bringing it near to idols, because it deceiveth the mind and understanding, and leadeth young men into Sheol before their time. For many hath fornication destroyed; because, though a man be old or noble, or rich or poor, he bringeth reproach upon himself with the sons of men and derision with Beliar. For you heard regarding Yoceph how he guarded himself from a woman, and purged his thoughts from all fornication, and found favor in the sight of Elohiym and men. For the Egyptian woman did many things unto him, and summoned magicians, and offered him love potions, but the purpose of his soul admitted no evil desire. Therefore the Elohiym of your fathers delivered him from every evil and hidden death. For if fornication overcomes not your mind, neither can Beliar overcome you.

Chapter 5 1 For evil are women, my children; and since they have no power or strength over man, they use wiles by outward attractions, that they may draw him to themselves. And whom they cannot bewitch by outward attractions, him they overcome by craft. For moreover, concerning them, the angel of Yahuah told me, and taught me, that women are overcome by the spirit of fornication more than men, and in their heart they plot against men; and by means of their adornment they deceive first their minds, and by the glance of the eye instill the poison, and then through the accomplished act they take them captive. For a woman cannot force a man openly, but by a harlot's bearing she beguiles him. Flee, therefore, fornication, my children, and command your wives and your daughters, that they adorn not their heads and faces to deceive

the mind: because every woman who useth these wiles hath been reserved for eternal punishment. For thus they allured the Watchers who were before the flood; for as these continually beheld them, they lusted after them, and they conceived the act in their mind; for they changed themselves into the shape of men, and appeared to them when they were with their husbands. And the women lusting in their minds after their forms, gave birth to giants, for the Watchers appeared to them as reaching even unto shamaïym.

Chapter 6 Beware, therefore, of fornication; and if you wish to be pure in mind, guard your senses from every woman. And command the women likewise not to associate with men, that they also may be pure in mind. For constant meetings, even though the unrighteous deed be not wrought, are to them an irremediable disease, and to us a destruction of Beliar and an eternal reproach. For in fornication there is neither understanding nor Righteousness, and all jealousy dwelleth in the lust thereof. Therefore, then I say unto you, you will be jealous against the sons of Levi, and will seek to be exalted over them; but you shall not be able. For Elohiym will avenge them, and you shall die by an evil death. For to Levi Elohiym gave the sovereignty and to Yahudah with him and to me also, and to Dan and Yoceph, that we should be for rulers. Therefore I command you to hearken to Levi, **because he shall know the Torah of Yahuah**, and shall give ordinances for judgment and shall sacrifice for all Yashar'el until the consummation of the times, as the anointed High Priest, of whom Yahuah spake, I adjure you by the Elohiym of shamaïym to do truth each one unto his neighbor and to entertain love each one for his brother. And draw you near to Levi in humbleness of heart, that you may receive a blessing from his mouth. For he shall bless Yashar'el and Yahudah, because him hath Yahuah chosen to be king over all the nation. And bow down before his seed, for on our behalf it will die in wars visible and invisible, and will be among you an eternal king.

Chapter 7 And Reuben died, having given these commands to his sons. And they placed him in a coffin until they carried him up from Egypt, and buried him in Hebron in the cave where his father was.

THE TESTAMENT OF SIMEON, THE SECOND SON OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Simeon, the things which he spake to his sons before he died, in the hundred and twentieth year of his life, at which time Yoceph, his brother, died. For when Simeon was sick, his sons came to visit him, and he strengthened himself and sat up and kissed them, and said:--

Chapter 2 1 Hearken, my children, to Simeon your father, And I will declare unto you what things I have in my heart. I was born of Ya'acob as my father's second son; And my mother Leah called me Simeon, Because Yahuah had heard her prayer. Moreover, I became strong exceedingly; I shrank from no achievement, Nor was I afraid of ought. For my heart was hard, And my liver was immovable, And my bowels without compassion. Because valour also has

been given from the Most High to men in soul and body. For in the time of my youth I was jealous in many things of Yoceph, because my father loved him beyond all. And I set my mind against him to destroy him, because the prince of deceit sent forth the spirit of jealousy and blinded my mind, so that I regarded him not as a brother, nor did I spare even Ya'acob my father. But his Elohiym and the Elohiym of his fathers sent forth His angel, and delivered him out of my hands. For when I went to Shechem to bring ointment for the flocks, and Reuben to Dothan, where were our necessities and all our stores, Yahudah my brother sold him to the Ishmaelites. And when Reuben heard these things he was grieved, for he wished to restore him to his father. But on hearing this I was exceedingly wroth against Yahudah in that he let him go away alive, and for five months I continued wrathful against him. But Yahuah restrained me, and withheld from me the power of my hands; for my right hand was half withered for seven days. And I knew, my children, that because of Yoceph this had befallen me, and I repented and wept; and I besought Yahuah Elohiym that my hand might be restored, and that I might hold aloof from all pollution and envy and from all folly. For I knew that I had devised an evil thing before Yahuah and Ya'acob my father, on account of Yoceph my brother, in that I envied him.

Chapter 3 And now, my children, hearken unto me and beware of the spirit of deceit and envy. For envy ruleth over the whole mind of a man, and suffereth him neither to eat nor to drink, nor to do any good thing. But it ever suggesteth to him to destroy him that he envieth; and so long as he that is envied flourisheth, he that envieth fadeth away. Two years therefore I afflicted my soul with fasting in the fear of Yahuah, and I learnt that deliverance from envy cometh by the fear of Elohiym. For if a man flee to Yahuah, the evil spirit runneth away from him, and his mind is lightened. And henceforward he sympathiseth with him whom he envied and forgiveth those who are hostile to him, and so ceaseth from his envy.

Chapter 4 And my father asked Concerning me, because he saw that I was sad; and I said unto him, I am pained in my liver. For I mourned more than they all, because I was guilty of the selling of Yoceph. And when we went down into Egypt, and he bound me as a spy, I knew that I was suffering justly, and I grieved not. Now Yoceph was a good man, and had the Spirit of Elohiym within him: being compassionate and pitiful, he bore no malice against me; but loved me even as the rest of his brethren. Beware, therefore, my children, of all jealousy and envy, and walk in singleness of soul and with good heart, keeping in mind Yoceph your father's brother, that Elohiym may give you also grace and glory, and blessing upon your heads, even as you saw in Yoceph's case. All his days he reproached us not concerning this thing, but loved us as his own soul, and beyond his own sons glorified us, and gave us riches, and cattle and fruits. Do you also, my children, love each one his brother with a good heart and the spirit of envy will withdraw from you. For this maketh savage the soul and destroyeth the body; it causeth anger and war in the mind, and stirreth up unto deeds of blood, and leadeth the mind into frenzy, and suffereth not prudence to act in men; moreover, it taketh away sleep, and causeth tumult to the soul and trembling to the body. For even in sleep some malicious jealousy, deluding him, gnaweth and with wicked spirits disturbeth his soul, and causeth the body to be troubled, and waketh the mind from sleep in confusion; and as a wicked and poisonous spirit, so appeareth it to men.

Chapter 5 Therefore was Yoceph comely in appearance and goodly to look upon, because no wickedness dwelt in him; for some of the trouble of the spirit the face manifesteth. And now, my children, Make your hearts good before Yahuah, And your ways straight before men. And you shall find grace before Yahuah and men. Beware, therefore, of fornication, For fornication is mother of all evils, Separating from Elohiym, and bringing near to Beliar. For I have seen it inscribed in the writing of Enoch that your sons shall be corrupted in fornication, 5 and shall do harm to the sons of Levi with the sword. But they shall not be able to withstand Levi; for he shall wage the war of Yahuah, and shall conquer all your hosts. And they shall be few in number, divided in Levi and Yahudah, and there shall be none of you for sovereignty, even as also our father prophesied in his blessings.

Chapter 6 Behold I have told you all things, that I may be acquitted of your transgression. Now, if you remove from you your envy and all stiff-neckedness, As a rose shall my bones flourish in Yashar'el, And as a lily my flesh in Ya'acob, And my odour shall be as the odor of Libanus; And as cedars shall holy ones be multiplied from me forever, And their branches shall stretch afar off. 3 Then shall perish the seed of Canaan, And a remnant shall not be unto Amalek, And all the Cappadocians shall perish, And all the Hittites shall be utterly destroyed. Then shall fail the land of Ham, And all the people shall perish. Then shall all the earth rest from trouble, And all the world under shamaïym from war. Then the Mighty One of Yashar'el shall glorify Shem, For Yahuah Elohiym shall appear on earth, And Himself save men. Then shall all the spirits of deceit be given to be trodden under foot, And men shall rule over wicked spirits. Then shall I arise in joy, And will bless the Most High because of his marvelous works, Because Elohiym hath taken a body and eaten with men and saved men.

Chapter 7 And now, my children, obey Levi and Yahudah, and be not lifted up against these two tribes, for from them shall arise unto you the salvation of Elohiym. For Yahuah shall raise up from Levi as it were a High-priest, and from Yahudah as it were a King Elohiym and man, He shall save all the nations and the race of Yashar'el. Therefore I give you these commands that you also may command your children that they may observe them throughout their generations.

Chapter 8 And when Simeon had made an end of commanding his sons, he slept with his fathers, being an hundred and twenty years old. And they laid him in a wooden coffin, to take up his bones to Hebron. And they took them up secretly during a war of the Egyptians. For the bones of Yoceph the Egyptians guarded in the tombs of the kings. For the sorcerers told them; that on the departure of the bones of Yoceph there should be throughout all the land darkness and gloom, and an exceeding great plague to the Egyptians, so that even with a lamp a man should not recognize his brother.

Chapter 9 And the sons of Simeon bewailed their father. And they were in Egypt until the day of their departure by the hand of Moses.

THE TESTAMENT OF LEVI, THE THIRD SON OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Levi, the things which he ordained unto his sons, according to all that they should do, and what things should befall them until the day of judgment. He was sound in health when he called them to him; for it had been revealed to him that he should die. And when they were gathered together he said to them:

Chapter 2 I, Levi, was born in Haran, and I came with my father to Shechem. And I was young, about twenty years of age, when, with Simeon, I wrought vengeance on Hamor for our sister Dinah. And when I was feeding the flocks in Abel-Maul, the spirit of understanding of Yahuah came upon me, and I saw all men corrupting their way, and that unrighteousness had built for itself walls, and Torahlessness sat upon towers. And I was grieving for the race of the sons of men, and I prayed to Yahuah that I might be saved. Then there fell upon me a sleep, and I beheld a high mountain, and I was upon it. And behold the shamaïm were opened and an angel of Elohiym said to me, Levi enter. And I entered from the first shamaïm, and I saw there a great sea hanging. And further I saw a second shamaïm far brighter and more brilliant, for there was a boundless light also therein. And I said to the angel, Why Is this so? And the angel said to me, Marvel not at this, for thou shalt see another shamaïm more brilliant and incomparable. And when thou hast ascended thither, Thou shalt stand near Yahuah, And shalt be His minister, And shalt declare His mysteries to men, And shall proclaim concerning Him that shall redeem Yashar'el. And by thee and Yahudah shall Yahuah appear among men Saving every race of men. And from Yahuah's portion shall be thy life, And He shall be thy field and vineyard, And fruits, gold, and silver.

Chapter 3 Hear, therefore, regarding the shamaïm which have been shown to thee. The lowest is for this cause gloomy unto thee, in that it beholds all the unrighteous deeds of men. And it has fire, snow, and ice made ready for the day of judgement, in the righteous judgement of Elohiym; for in it are all the spirits of the retributions for vengeance on men. And in the second are the hosts of the armies which are ordained for the day of judgement, to work vengeance on the spirits of deceit and of Beliar. And above them are the holy ones. And in the highest of all dwelleth the Great Glory, far above all holiness. In the shamaïm next to it are the archangels, who minister and make propitiation to Yahuah for all the transgressions of ignorance of the righteous; Offering to Yahuah a sweet-smelling savour, a reasonable and a bloodless offering. And in the shamaïm below this are the angels who bear answers to the angels of the presence of Yahuah. And in the shamaïm next to this are thrones and dominions, in which always they offer praise to Elohiym. When, therefore, Yahuah looketh upon us, all of us are shaken; yea, the shamaïm, and the earth, and the abysses are shaken at the presence of His majesty. But the sons of men, having no perception of these things transgress and provoke the Most High.

Chapter 4 Now, therefore, know that Yahuah shall execute judgment upon the sons of men. Because when the rocks are being rent, And the sun quenched, And the waters dried up, And the

fire cowering, And all creation troubled, And the invisible spirits melting away; And Sheol taketh spoils through the visitations of the Most High, Men will be unbelieving and persist in their iniquity. On this account with punishment shall they be judged. Therefore the Most High hath heard thy prayer, To separate thee from iniquity, and that thou shouldst become to Him a son, And a servant, and a minister of His presence. The light of knowledge shalt thou light up in Ya'acob, And as the sun shalt thou be to all the seed of Yashar'el. And there shall be given to thee a blessing, and to all thy seed, Until Yahuah shall visit all the nations in His tender mercies for ever. And therefore there have been given to thee counsel and understanding, That thou mightst instruct thy sons concerning this; Because they that bless Him shall be blessed, And they that curse Him shall perish.

Chapter 5 And thereupon the angel opened to me the gates of shamaïym, and I saw the holy temple, and upon a throne of glory the Most High. And He said to me: Levi, I have given thee the blessings of the priesthood until I come and sojourn in the midst of Yashar'el. Then the angel brought me down to the earth, and gave me a shield and a sword, and said to me: Execute vengeance on Shechem because of Dinah, thy sister, and I will be with thee because Yahuah hath sent me. And I destroyed at that time the sons of Hamor, as it is written in the shamaïym tables. And I said to him: I pray thee, O Lord, tell me Thy name, that I may call upon Thee on the day of tribulation. And he said: I am the angel who intercedeth for the nation of Yashar'el that they may not be smitten utterly, for every evil spirit attacketh it. And after these things I awaked, and blessed the Most High, and the angel who intercedeth for the nation of Yashar'el and for all the righteous.

Chapter 6 And when I was going to my father, I found a brazen shield; wherefore also the name of the mountain is Aspis, which is near Gebal, to the south of Abila And I kept these words in my heart. And after this I counseled my father, and Reuben my brother, to bid the sons of Hamor not to be circumcised; for I was zealous because of the abomination which they had wrought on my sister. And I slew Shechem first, and Simeon slew Hamor. And after this my brothers came and smote that city with the edge of the sword. And my father heard these things and was wroth, and he was grieved in that they had received the circumcision, and after that had been put to death, and in his blessings he looked amiss upon us. For we transgressed because we had done this thing against his will, and he was sick on that day. But I saw that the sentence of Elohiym was for evil upon Shechem; for they sought to do to Sarah and Rebecca as they had done to Dinah our sister, but Yahuah prevented them. And they persecuted Abraham our father when he was a stranger, and they vexed his flocks when they were big with young; and Eblaen, who was born in his house, they most shamefully handled. And thus they did to all strangers, taking away their wives by force, and they banished them. But the wrath of Yahuah came upon them to the uttermost.

Chapter 7 And I said to my father Ya'acob: By thee will Yahuah despoil the Canaanites, and will give their land to thee and to thy seed after thee. For from this day forward shall Shechem be called a city of imbeciles; for as a man mocketh a fool, so did we mock them. Because also they had wrought folly in Yashar'el by defiling my sister. And we departed and came to Bethel.

Chapter 8 And there again I saw a vision as the former, after we had spent there seventy days. And I saw seven men in white raiment saying unto me: Arise, put on the robe of the priesthood, and the crown of righteousness, and the breastplate of understanding, and the garment of truth, and the plate of faith, and the turban of the head, and the ephod of prophecy. And they severally carried these things and put them, on me, and said unto me: From henceforth become a priest of Yahuah, thou and thy seed for ever. And the first anointed me with holy oil, and gave to me the staff of judgment. The second washed me with pure water, and fed me with bread and wine even the most holy things, and clad me with a holy and glorious robe. The third clothed me with a linen vestment like an ephod. The fourth put round me a girdle like unto purple. The fifth gave me a branch of rich olive. The sixth placed a crown on my head. The seventh placed on my head a diadem of priesthood, and filled my hands with incense, that I might serve as priest to Yahuah Elohiym. And they said to me: Levi, thy seed shall be divided into three offices, for a sign of the glory of Yahuah who is to come. And the first portion shall be great; yea, greater than it shall none be. The second shall be in the priesthood. And the third shall be called by a new name, because a king shall arise in Yahudah, and shall establish a new priesthood, after the fashion of the nations to all the nations. And His presence is beloved, as a prophet of the Most High, of the seed of Abraham our father. Therefore, every desirable thing in Yashar'el shall be for thee and for thy seed, And you shall eat everything fair to look upon, And the table of Yahuah shall thy seed apportion. And some of them shall be high priests, and judges, and scribes; For by their mouth shall the holy place be guarded. And when I awoke, I understood that this dream was like the first dream. And I hid this also in my heart, and told it not to any man upon the earth.

Chapter 9 And after two days I and Yahudah went up with our father Ya'acob to Isaac our father's father. And my father's father blessed me according to all the words of the visions which I had seen. And he would not come with us to Bethel. And when we came to Bethel, my father saw a vision concerning me, that I should be their priest unto Elohiym. And he rose up early in the morning, and paid tithes of all to Yahuah through me. And so we came to Hebron to dwell there. And **Isaac called me continually to put me in remembrance of the Torah of Yahuah**, even as the angel of Yahuah showed unto me. And he taught me the Torah of the priesthood, of sacrifices, whole burnt-offerings, first-fruits, freewill-offerings, Shalom-offerings. And each day he was instructing me, and was busied on my behalf before Yahuah, and said to me: Beware of the spirit of fornication; for this shall continue and shall by thy seed pollute the holy place. Take, therefore, to thyself a wife without blemish or pollution, while yet thou art young, and not of the race of strange nations. And before entering into the holy place, bathe; and when thou offerest the sacrifices wash; and again, when thou finishest the sacrifice, wash Of twelve trees having leaves, offer to Yahuah, as Abraham taught me also. And of every clean beast and bird offer a sacrifice to Yahuah. And of all thy first-fruits and of wine offer the first, as a sacrifice to Yahuah Elohiym; and every sacrifice thou shalt salt with salt.

Chapter 10 Now, therefore, observe whatsoever I command you, children: for whatsoever things I have heard from my fathers I have declared unto you. And behold I am clear from your unrighteousness and transgression, which you shall commit in the end of the ages against the Saviour of the world, Messiah, acting wickedly, deceiving Yashar'el, and stirring up against it great evils from Yahuah. And you shall deal Torahlessly together with Yashar'el, so He shall not bear with Jerusalem because of your wickedness; but the veil of the temple shall be rent, so as not to cover your shame. And you shall be scattered as captives among the nations, and shall be for a reproach and for a curse there. For the house which Yahuah shall choose shall be called Jerusalem, as is contained in the book of Enoch the righteous.

Chapter 11 Therefore when I took a wife I was twenty-eight years old, and her name was Melcha. And she conceived and bare a son, and I called his name Gersam, for we were sojourners in our land. And I saw concerning him, that he would not be in the first rank, And Kohath was born in the thirty-fifth year of my life, towards sunrise. And I saw in a vision that he was standing on high in the midst of all the congregation, Therefore I called his name Kohath which is, beginning of majesty and instruction. And she bare me a third son, in the fortieth year of my life; and since his mother bare him with difficulty, I called him Merari, that is, 'my bitterness,' because he also was like to die. And Jochebed was born in Egypt, in my sixty-fourth year, for I was renowned then in the midst of my brethren.

Chapter 12 And Gersam took a wife, and she bare to him Lomni and Semei. And the sons of Kohath, Amram, Yissachar, Hebron, and Ozeel. And the sons of Merari, Mooli, and Mouses. And in the ninety-fourth year Amram took Jochebed, my daughter to him to wife, for they were born in one day, he and my daughter. Eight years old was I when I went into the land of Canaan, and eighteen years when I slew Shechem, and at nineteen years I became priest, and at twenty-eight years I took a wife, and at forty-eight I went into Egypt. And behold, my children, you are a third generation. In my hundred and eighteenth year Yoceph died.

Chapter 13 And now, my children, I command you: **Fear Yahuah your Elohiym with your whole heart, And walk in simplicity according to all His Torah. And do you also teach your children letters, That they may have understanding all their life, Reading unceasingly the Torah of Yahuah. For every one that knoweth the Torah of Yahuah shall be honored,** And shall not be a stranger whithersoever he goeth. Yea, many friends shall he gain more than his parents, And many men shall desire to serve him, And to hear the Torah from his mouth. Work Righteousness, therefore, my children, upon the earth, That you may have it as a treasure in shamaiym. And sow good things in your souls, That you may find them in your life. But if you sow evil things, you shall reap every trouble and affliction. Get wisdom in the fear of Elohiym with diligence; For though there be a leading into captivity, And cities and lands be destroyed, And gold and silver and every possession perish, The wisdom of the wise nought can take away, Save the blindness of unrighteousness, and the callousness that comes of transgression. For if one keep oneself from these evil things, Then even among his enemies shall wisdom be a glory to him, And in a strange country a fatherland, And in the midst

of foes shall prove a friend. Whosoever teaches noble things and does them, Shall be enthroned with kings, As was also Yoceph my brother.

Chapter 14 Therefore, my children, I have learnt that at the end of the ages you will transgress against Yahuah, stretching out hands to wickedness against Him; and to all the nations shall you become a scorn. For our father Yashar'el is pure from the transgressions of the chief priests who shall lay their hands upon the Saviour of the world. For as the shamaïm is purer in Yahuah's sight than the earth, so also be ye, the lights of Yashar'el, purer than all the nations. But if you be darkened through transgressions, what, therefore, will all the nations do living in blindness? Yea, **you shall bring a curse upon our race, because the light of the Torah which was given for to lighten every man this you desire to destroy by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of Elohiym.** The offerings of Yahuah you shall rob, and from His portion shall you steal choice portions, eating them contemptuously with harlots. And out of covetousness you shall teach the commandments of Yahuah, wedded women shall you pollute, and the virgins of Jerusalem shall you defile: and with harlots and adulteresses shall you be joined, and the daughters of the nations shall you take to wife, purifying them with an unlawful purification; and your union shall be like unto Sodom and Gomorrah. And you shall be puffed up because of your priesthood, lifting yourselves up against men, and not only so, but also against the commands of Elohiym. For you shall condemn the holy things with jests and laughter.

Chapter 15 Therefore the temple, which Yahuah shall choose, shall be laid waste through your uncleanness, and you shall be captives throughout all nations. And you shall be an abomination unto them, and you shall receive reproach and everlasting shame from the righteous judgement of Elohiym. And all who hate you shall rejoice at your destruction. And if you were not to receive mercy through Abraham, Isaac, and Ya'acob, our fathers, not one of our seed should be left upon the earth.

Chapter 16 And now I have learnt that for seventy weeks you shall go astray, and profane the priesthood, and pollute the sacrifices. And you shall make void the Torah, and set at nought the words of the prophets by evil perverseness. And you shall persecute righteous men, and hate the righteous, the words of the faithful shall you abhor. **And a man who reneweth the Torah in the power of the Most High, you shall call a deceiver; and at last you shall rush upon him to slay him,** not knowing his dignity, taking innocent blood through wickedness upon your heads. And your holy places shall be laid waste even to the ground because of him. And you shall have no place that is clean; but you shall be among the nations a curse and a dispersion until He shall again visit you and in pity shall receive you through faith and water.

Chapter 17 And whereas you have heard concerning the seventy weeks, hear also concerning the priesthood. For in each jubilee there shall be a priesthood. And in the first jubilee, the first who is anointed to the priesthood shall be great, and shall speak to Elohiym as to a father. And his priesthood shall be perfect with Yahuah, and in the day of his gladness shall he arise for the salvation of the world. In the second jubilee, he that is anointed shall be conceived in the sorrow of beloved ones; and his priesthood shall be honored and shall be glorified by all. And the third

priest shall be taken hold of by sorrow. And the fourth shall be in pain, because unrighteousness shall gather itself against him exceedingly, and all Yashar'el shall hate each one his neighbor. The fifth shall be taken hold of by darkness Likewise also the sixth and the seventh. And in the seventh shall be such pollution as I cannot express before men, for they shall know it who do these things. Therefore shall they be taken captive and become a prey, and their land and their substance shall be destroyed. And in the fifth week they shall return to their desolate country, and shall renew the house of Yahuah. And in the seventh week shall become priests, who are idolaters, adulterers, lovers of money, proud, Torahless, lascivious, abusers of children and beasts.

Chapter 18 And after their punishment shall have come from Yahuah, the priesthood shall fail. Then shall Yahuah raise up a new priest. And to him all the words of Yahuah shall be revealed; And he shall execute a righteous judgement upon the earth for a multitude of days. And his star shall arise in shamaïm as of a king. Lighting up the light of knowledge as the sun the day, And he shall be magnified in the world. He shall shine forth as the sun on the earth, And shall remove all darkness from under shamaïm, And there shall be Shalom in all the earth. The shamaïm shall exult in his days, And the earth shall be glad, And the clouds shall rejoice, And the knowledge of Yahuah shall be poured forth upon the earth, as the water of the seas; And the angels of the glory of the presence of Yahuah shall be glad in him. The shamaïm shall be opened, And From the temple of glory shall come upon him sanctification, With the Father's voice as from Abraham to Isaac. And the glory of the Most High shall be uttered over him, And the spirit of understanding and sanctification shall rest upon him in the water. For he shall give the majesty of Yahuah to His sons in truth for evermore; And there shall none succeed him for all generations for ever. And in his priesthood the nations shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the earth, And enlightened through the grace of Yahuah: In his priesthood shall transgression come to an end, And the Torahless shall cease to do evil. And the just shall rest in him. And he shall open the gates of paradise, And shall remove the threatening sword against Adam. And he shall give to the saints to eat from the tree of life, And the spirit of holiness shall be on them. And Beliar shall be bound by him, And he shall give power to His children to tread upon the evil spirits. And Yahuah shall rejoice in His children, And be well pleased in His beloved ones for ever. Then shall Abraham and Isaac and Ya'acob exult, And I will be glad, And all the saints shall clothe themselves with joy.

Chapter 19 And now, my children, you have heard all; **choose, therefore, for yourselves either the light or the darkness, either the Torah of Yahuah or the works of Beliar. And his sons answered him, saying, Before Yahuah we will walk according to His Torah.** And their father said unto them, Yahuah is witness, and His angels are witnesses, and you are witnesses, and I am witness, concerning the word of your mouth. And his sons said unto him: We are witnesses. And thus Levi ceased commanding his sons; and he stretched out his feet on the bed, and was gathered to his fathers, after he had lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. And they laid him in a coffin, and afterwards they buried him in Hebron, with Abraham, Isaac, and Ya'acob

THE TESTAMENT OF YAHUDAH, THE FOURTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Yahudah, what things he spake to his sons before he died. They gathered themselves together, therefore, and came to him, and he said to them: Hearken, my children, to Yahudah your father. I was the fourth son born to my father Ya'acob; and Leah my mother named me Yahudah, saying, I give thanks to Yahuah, because He hath given me a fourth son also. I was swift in my youth, and obedient to my father in everything. And I honored my mother and my mother's sister. And it came to pass, when I became a man, that my father blessed me, saying, Thou shalt be a king, prospering in all things.

Chapter 2 And Yahuah showed me favor in all my works both in the field and in the house. I know that I raced a hind, and caught it, and prepared the meat for my father, and he did eat. And the roes I used to master in the chase, and overtake all that was in the plains. A wild mare I overtook, and caught it and tamed it. I slew a lion and plucked a kid out of its mouth. I took a bear by its paw and hurled it down the cliff, and it was crushed. I outran the wild boar, and seizing it as I ran, I tore it in sunder. A leopard in Hebron leaped upon my dog, and I caught it by the tail, and hurled it on the rocks, and it was broken in twain. I found a wild ox feeding in the fields, and seizing it by the horns, and whirling it round and stunning it, I cast it from me and slew it.

Chapter 3 And when the two kings of the Canaanites came sheathed in armor against our flocks, and much people with them, single-handed I rushed upon the king of Hazor, and smote him on the greaves and dragged him down, and so I Slew him. And the other, the king of Tappuah, as he sat upon his horse, I slew, and so I scattered all his people. Achor the king a man of giant stature I found, hurling javelins before and behind as he sat on horseback, and I took up a stone of sixty pounds weight, and hurled it and smote his horse, and killed it. And I fought with this other for two hours; and I clave his shield in twain, and I chopped off his feet, and killed him. And as I was stripping off his breastplate, behold nine men his companions began to fight with me. And I wound my garment on my hand; and I slung stones at them, and killed four of them, and the rest fled. And Ya'acob my father slew Beelesath, king of all the kings, a giant in strength, twelve cubits high. And fear fell upon them, and they ceased warring against us. Therefore my father was free from anxiety in the wars when I was with my brethren. For he saw in a vision concerning me that an angel of might followed me everywhere, that I should not be overcome.

Chapter 4 And in the south there came upon us a greater war than that in Shechem; and I joined in battle array with my brethren, and pursued a thousand men, and slew of them two hundred men and four kings. And I went up upon the wall, and I slew four mighty men. And so we captured Hazor, and took all the spoil.

Chapter 5 On the next day we departed to Aretan, a city strong and walled and inaccessible, threatening us with death. But I and Gad approached on the east side of the city, and Reuben and Levi on the west. And they that were upon the wall, thinking that we were alone, were drawn down against us. And so my brothers secretly climbed up the wall on both sides by stakes, and entered the city, while the men knew it not. And we took it with the edge of the sword. And as for those who had taken refuge in the tower, we set fire to the tower and took both it and them. And as we were departing the men of Tappuah set upon our spoil, and delivering it up to our sons we fought with them as far as Tappuah. And we slew them and burnt their city, and took as spoil all that was in it.

Chapter 6 And when I was at the waters of Kozeba, the men of Jobel came against us to battle. And we fought with them and routed them; and their allies from Shiloh we slew, and we did not leave them power to come in against us. And the men of Makir came upon us the fifth day, to seize our spoil; and we attacked them and overcame them in fierce battle: for there was a host of mighty men amongst them, and we slew them before they had gone up the ascent. And when we came to their city their women rolled upon us stones from the brow of the hill on which the city stood, And I and Simeon hid ourselves behind the town, and seized upon the heights, and destroyed this city also.

Chapter 7 And the next day it was told us that the king of the city of Gaash with a mighty host was coming against us. I, therefore, and Dan feigned ourselves to be Amorites, and as allies went into their city. And in the depth of night our brethren came and we opened to them the gates; and we destroyed all the men and their substance, and we took for a prey all that was theirs, and their three walls we cast down. And we drew near to Thamna, where was all the substance of the hostile kings. Then being insulted by them, I was therefore wroth, and rushed against them to the summit; and they kept slinging against me stones and darts. And had not Dan my brother aided me, they would have slain me. We came upon them, therefore, with wrath, and they all fled; and passing by another way, they besought my father, and he made Shalom with them. And we did to them no hurt, and they became tributary to us, and we restored to them their spoil. And I built Thamna, and my father built Pabael. I was twenty years old when this war befell. And the Canaanites feared me and my brethren.

Chapter 8 And I had much cattle, and I had for chief herdsman Iram the Adullamite. And when I went to him I saw Parsaba, king of Adullam; and he spake unto us, and he made us a feast; and when I was heated he gave me his daughter Bathshua to wife. She bare me Er, and Onan and Shelah; and two of them Yahuah smote: for Shelah lived, and his children are you.

Chapter 9 And eighteen years my father abode in Shalom with his brother Esau, and his sons with us, after that we came from Mesopotamia, from Laban. And when eighteen years were fulfilled, in the fortieth year of my life, Esau, the brother of my father, came upon us with a mighty and strong people. And Ya'acob smote Esau with an arrow, and he was taken up

wounded on Mount Seir, and as he went he died at Anoniram. And we pursued after the sons of Esau. Now they had a city with walls of iron and gates of brass; and we could not enter into it, and we encamped around, and besieged it. And when they opened not to us in twenty days, I set up a ladder in the sight of all and with my shield upon my head I went up, sustaining the assault of stones, upwards of three talents weight; and I slew four of their mighty men. And Reuben and Gad slew six others. Then they asked from us terms of Shalom; and having taken counsel with our father, we received them as tributaries. And they gave us five hundred cors of wheat, five hundred baths of oil, five hundred measures of wine, until the famine, when we went down into Egypt.

Chapter 10 And after these things my son Er took to wife Tamar, from Mesopotamia, a daughter of Aram. Now Er was wicked, and he was in need concerning Tamar, because she was not of the land of Canaan. And on the third night an angel of Yahuah smote him. And he had not known her according to the evil craftiness of his mother, for he did not wish to have children by her. In the days of the wedding-feast I gave Onan to her in marriage; and he also in wickedness knew her not, though he spent with her a year. And when I threatened him he went in unto her, but he spilled the seed on the ground, according to the command of his mother, and he also died through wickedness. And I wished to give Shelah also to her, but his mother did not permit it; for she wrought evil against Tamar, because she was not of the daughters of Canaan, as she also herself was.

Chapter 11 And I knew that the race of the Canaanites was wicked, but the impulse of youth blinded my mind. And when I saw her pouring out wine, owing to the intoxication of wine I was deceived, and took her although my father had not counseled it. And while I was away she went and took for Shelah a wife from Canaan. And when I knew what she had done, I cursed her in the anguish of my soul. And she also died through her wickedness together with her sons.

Chapter 12 And after these things, while Tamar was a widow, she heard after two years that I was going up to shear my sheep, and adorned herself in bridal array, and sat in the city Enaim by the gate. For it was a law of the Amorites, that she who was about to marry should sit in fornication seven days by the gate. Therefore being drunk with wine, I did not recognize her; and her beauty deceived me, through the fashion of her adorning. And I turned aside to her, and said: Let me go in unto thee. And she said: What wilt thou give me? And I gave her my staff, and my girdle, and the diadem of my kingdom in pledge. And I went in unto her, and she conceived. And not knowing what I had done, I wished to slay her; but she privily sent my pledges, and put me to shame. And when I called her, I heard also the secret words which I spoke when lying with her in my drunkenness; and I could not slay her, because it was from Yahuah. For I said, Lest haply she did it in subtlety, having received the pledge from another woman. But I came not again near her while I lived, because I had done this abomination in all Yashar'el. Moreover, they who were in the city said there was no harlot in the gate, because she came from another place, and sat for a while in the gate. And I thought that no one knew that I had gone in to her. And after this we came into Egypt to Yoceph, because of the famine. And I was forty and six years old, and seventy and three years lived I in Egypt.

Chapter 13 And now I command you, my children, hearken to Yahudah your father, and keep my sayings to perform all the ordinances of Yahuah, and to obey the commands of Elohiym. And walk not after your lusts, nor in the imaginations of your thoughts in haughtiness of heart; and glory not in the deeds and strength of your youth, for this also is evil in the eyes of Yahuah. Since I also gloried that in wars no comely woman's face ever enticed me, and reproved Reuben my brother concerning Bilhah, the wife of my father, the spirits of jealousy and of fornication arrayed themselves against me, until I lay with Bathshua the Canaanite, and Tamar, who was espoused to my sons. For I said to my father-in-law: I will take counsel with my father, and so will I take thy daughter. And he was unwilling, but he showed me a boundless store of gold on his daughter's behalf; for he was a king. And he adorned her with gold and pearls, and caused her to pour out wine for us at the feast with the beauty of women. And the wine turned aside my eyes, and pleasure blinded my heart. And I became enamored of and I lay with her, and transgressed the commandment of Yahuah and the commandment of my fathers, and I took her to wife. And Yahuah rewarded me according to the imagination of my heart, inasmuch as I had no joy in her children.

Chapter 14 And now, my children, I say unto you, be not drunk with wine; for wine turneth the mind away from the truth, and inspires the passion of lust, and leadeth the eyes into error. For the spirit of fornication hath wine as a minister to give pleasure to the mind; for these two also take away the mind of man. For if a man drink wine to drunkenness, it disturbeth the mind with filthy thoughts leading to fornication, and heateth the body to carnal union; and if the occasion of the lust be present, he worketh the transgression, and is not ashamed. Such is the inebriated man, my children; for he who is drunken reverenceth no man. For, lo, it made me also to err, so that I was not ashamed of the multitude in the city, in that before the eyes of all I turned aside unto Tamar, and I wrought a great transgression, and I uncovered the covering of my sons' shame. After I had drunk wine I revered not the commandment of Elohiym, and I took a woman of Canaan to wife. For much discretion needeth the man who drinketh wine, my children; and herein is discretion in drinking wine a man may drink so long as he preserveth modesty. But if he go beyond this limit the spirit of deceit attacketh his mind, and it maketh the drunkard to talk filthily, and to transgress and not to be ashamed, but even to glory in his shame, and to account himself honorable.

Chapter 15 He that committeth fornication is not aware when he suffers loss, and is not ashamed when put to dishonor. For even though a man be a king and commit fornication, he is stripped of his kingship by becoming the slave of fornication, as I myself also suffered. For I gave my staff, that is, the stay of my tribe; and my girdle, that is, my power; and my diadem, that is, the glory of my kingdom. And indeed I repented of these things; wine and flesh I ate not until my old age, nor did I behold any joy. And the angel of Elohiym showed me that forever do women bear rule over king and beggar alike. And from the king they take away his glory, and from the valiant man his might, and from the beggar even that little which is the stay of his poverty.

Chapter 16 Observe, therefore, my children, the rights limit in wine; for there are in it four evil spirits--- of lust, of hot desire, of profligacy of filthy lucre. If you drink wine in gladness, be you modest in the fear of Elohiym. For if in your gladness the fear of Elohiym departeth, then drunkenness ariseth and shamelessness stealeth in. But if you would live soberly, do not touch wine at all, lest you transgress in words of outrage, and in fightings and slanders, and transgressions of the commandments of Elohiym, and you perish before your time. Moreover, wine revealeth the mysteries of Elohiym and men, even as I also revealed the commandments of Elohiym and the mysteries of Ya'acob my father to the Canaanitish woman Bathshua, which Elohiym bade me not to reveal. And wine is a cause both of war and confusion.

Chapter 17 And now, I command you, my children, not to love money, nor to gaze upon the beauty of women; because for the sake of money and beauty I was led astray to Bathshua the Canaanite. For I know that because of these two things shall my race fall into wickedness. For even wise men among my sons shall they mar, and shall cause the kingdom of Yahudah to be diminished, which Yahuah gave me because of my obedience to my father. For I never caused grief to Ya'acob, my father: for all things whatsoever he commanded I did. And Isaac, the father of my father, blessed me to be king in Yashar'el, and Ya'acob further blessed me in like manner. And I know that from me shall the kingdom be established.

Chapter 18 And I know what evils you will do in the last days. Beware, therefore, my children, of fornication, and the love of money, and hearken to Yahudah your father. For these things withdraw you from the Torah of Elohiym, And blind the inclination of the soul, And teach arrogance, And suffer not a man to have compassion upon his neighbor They rob his soul of all goodness, And oppress him with toils and troubles, And drive away sleep from him, And devour his flesh. And he hindereth the sacrifices of Elohiym; And he remembereth not the blessing of Elohiym, He hearkeneth not to a prophet when he speaketh, And resenteth the words of righteousness. For he is a slave to two contrary passions, And cannot obey Yahuah, Because they have blinded his soul, And he walketh in the day as in the night.

Chapter 19 My children, the love of money leadeth to idolatry; because, when led astray through money, men name as Elohiyms those who are not Elohiyms, and it causeth him who hath it to fall into madness For the sake of money I lost my children, and had not my repentance, and my humiliation, and the prayers of my father been accepted, I should have died childless. But the Elohiym of my fathers had mercy on me, because I did it in ignorance. And the prince of deceit blinded me, and I transgressed as a man and as flesh, being corrupted through transgressions; and I learnt my own weakness while thinking myself invincible.

Chapter 20 Know, therefore, my children, that two spirits wait upon man the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit. And in the midst is the spirit of understanding of the mind, to which it belongeth to turn whithersoever it will. And the works of truth and the works of deceit are written upon the hearts of men, and each one of them Yahuah knoweth. And there is no time at which the works of men can be hid; for on the heart itself have they been written down before

Yahuah. And the spirit of truth testifieth all things, and accuseth all; and the transgressor is burnt up by his own heart, and cannot raise his face to the judge.

Chapter 21 And now, my children, I command you, love Levi, that you may abide, and exalt not yourselves against him, lest you be utterly destroyed. For to me Yahuah gave the kingdom, and to him the priesthood, and He set the kingdom beneath the priesthood. To me He gave the things upon the earth; to him the things in the shamaïym. As the shamaïym is higher than the earth, so is the priesthood of Elohiym higher than the earthly kingdom, unless it falls away through transgression from Yahuah and is dominated by the earthly kingdom. For the angel of Yahuah said unto me: Yahuah chose him rather than thee, to draw near to Him, and to eat of His table and to offer Him the first-fruits of the choice things of the sons of Yashar'el; but thou shalt be king of Ya'acob. And thou shalt be amongst them as the sea. For as, on the sea, just and unjust are tossed about, some taken into captivity while some are enriched, so also shall every race of men be in thee: some shall be impoverished, being taken captive, and others grow rich by plundering the possessions of others. For the kings shall be as sea-monsters. They shall swallow men like fishes: The sons and daughters of free men shall they enslave; Houses, lands, flocks, money shall they plunder: And with the flesh of many shall they wrongfully feed the ravens and the cranes; And they shall advance in evil, in covetousness uplifted, And there shall be false prophets like tempests, And they shall persecute all righteous men.

Chapter 22 And Yahuah shall bring upon them divisions one against another. And there shall be continual wars in Yashar'el; And among men of another race shall my kingdom be brought to an end, Until the salvation of Yashar'el shall come, Until the appearing of the Elohiym of righteousness, That Ya'acob and all the nations may rest in Shalom. And He shall guard the might of my kingdom for ever; For Yahuah sware to me with an oath that He would not destroy the kingdom from my seed for ever.

Chapter 23 Now I have much grief, my children, because of your lewdness and witchcrafts, and idolatries which you shall practice against the kingdom, following them that have familiar spirits, diviners, and demons of error. you shall make your daughters singing girls and harlots, and you shall mingle in the abominations of the nations. For which things' sake Yahuah shall bring upon you famine and pestilence, death and the sword, beleaguering by enemies, and revilings of friends, the slaughter of children, the rape of wives, the plundering of possessions, the burning of the temple of Elohiym, the laying waste of the land, the enslavement of yourselves among the nations. And they shall make some of you eunuchs for their wives. 5 Until Yahuah visits you, **when with perfect heart you repent and walk in all His commandments**; and He bring you up from captivity among the nations.

Chapter 24 And after these things shall a star arise to you from Ya'acob in Shalom, And a man shall arise from my seed, like the sun of righteousness, walking with the sons of men in meekness and righteousness; And no transgression shall be found in him. and the shamaïym shall be open unto him, To pour out the spirit, even the blessing of the Holy Father; And He shall pour out the spirit of grace upon you; And you shall be unto Him sons in truth, **And you**

shall walk in His commandments first and last. This Branch of Elohiym Most High, And this Fountain giving life unto all. Then shall the sceptre of my kingdom shine forth; And from your root shall arise a stem; And from it shall grow a rod of righteousness to the nations, To judge and to save all that call upon Yahuah.

Chapter 25 And after these things shall Abraham and Yitschaq and Ya'acob arise unto life, and I and my brethren shall be chiefs of the tribes of Yashar'el: Levi first, I the second, Yoceph third, Benjamin fourth, Simeon fifth; Yissachar sixth, and so all in order. And Yahuah blessed Levi, and the Angel of the Presence, me; the powers of glory, Simeon; the shamaiym, Reuben; the earth, Yissachar; the sea, Zebulun; the mountains, Yoceph; the tabernacle, Benjamin; the luminaries, Dan; Eden, Naphtali; the sun, Gad; the moon, Asher. And you shall be the people of Yahuah, and have one tongue; And there shall be there no spirit of deceit of Beliar, For he shall be cast into the fire for ever. And they who have died in grief shall arise in joy, And they who were poor for Yahuah's sake shall be made rich, And they who are put to death for Yahuah's sake shall awake to life. And the hearts of Ya'acob shall run in joyfulness, And the eagles of Yashar'el shall fly in gladness; **And all the people shall glorify Yahuah for ever.**

Chapter 26 Observe, therefore, my children, **all the Torah of Yahuah, for there is hope for all them who hold fast unto His ways.** And he said to them: Behold, I die before your eyes this day, a hundred and nineteen years old. Let no one bury me in costly apparel, nor tear open my bowels, for this shall they who are kings do; and carry me up to Hebron with you. And Yahudah, when he had said these things, fell asleep; and his sons did according to all whatsoever he commanded them, and they buried him in Hebron, with his fathers.

THE TESTAMENT OF YISSACHAR, THE FIFTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Yissachar. For he called his sons and said to them: Harken, my children, to Yissachar your father; Give ear to the words of him who is beloved of Yahuah. I was born the fifth son to Ya'acob, by way of hire for the mandrakes. For Reuben my brother brought in mandrakes from the field, and Rachel met him and took them. And Reuben wept, and at his voice Leah my mother came forth. Now these mandrakes were sweet-smelling apples which were produced in the land of Haran below a ravine of water. And Rachel said: I will not give them to thee, but they shall be to me instead of children. For Yahuah hath despised me, and I have not borne children to Ya'acob. Now there were two apples; and Leah said to Rachel: Let it suffice thee that thou hast taken my husband: wilt thou take these also? And Rachel said to her: Thou shalt have Ya'acob this night for the mandrakes of thy son. And Leah said to her: Ya'acob is mine, for I am the wife of his youth. But Rachel said: Boast not, and vaunt not thyself; for he espoused me before thee, and for my sake he served our father fourteen years. And had not craft increased on the earth and the wickedness of men prospered, thou wouldst not now see the face of Ya'acob.

Chapter 2 Then appeared to Ya'acob an angel of Yahuah, saying: Two children shall Rachel bear, inasmuch as she hath refused company with her husband, and hath chosen continency. And had not Leah my mother paid the two apples for the sake of his company, she would have borne eight sons; for this reason she bare six, and Rachel bare the two: for on account of the mandrakes Yahuah visited her. For He knew that for the sake of children she wished to company with Ya'acob, and not for lust of pleasure. For on the morrow also she again gave up Ya'acob. Because of the mandrakes; therefore, Yahuah hearkened to Rachel. For though she desired them, she ate them not, but offered them in the house of Yahuah, presenting them to the priest of the Most High who was at that time.

Chapter 3 When, therefore, I grew up, my children, I walked in uprightness of heart, and I became a husbandman for my father and my brethren, and I brought in fruits from the field according to their season. And my father blessed me, for he saw that I walked in rectitude before him. And I was not a busybody in my doings, nor envious and malicious against my neighbor. I never slandered any one, nor did I censure the life of any man, walking as I did in singleness of eye. Therefore, when I was thirty-five years old, I took to myself a wife, for my labor wore away my strength, and I never thought upon pleasure with women; but owing to my toil, sleep overcame me. And my father always rejoiced in my rectitude, because I offered through the priest to Yahuah all first-fruits; then to my father also. And Yahuah increased ten thousandfold His benefits in my hands; and also Ya'acob, my father, knew that Elohiym aided my singleness. For on all the poor and oppressed I bestowed the good things of the earth in the singleness of my heart.

Chapter 4 And now, hearken to me, my children, And walk in singleness of your heart, For I have seen in it all that is well-pleasing to Yahuah. The single-minded man coveteth not gold, He overreacheth not his neighbor, He longeth not after manifold dainties, He delighteth not in varied apparel. He doth not desire to live a long life, But only waiteth for the will of Elohiym. And the spirits of deceit have no power against him, For he looketh not on the beauty of women, Lest he should pollute his mind with corruption. There is no envy in his thoughts, No malicious person maketh his soul to pine away, Nor worry with insatiable desire in his mind. For he walketh in singleness of soul, And beholdeth all things in uprightness of heart, Shunning eyes made evil through the error of the world, Lest he should see the perversion of any of the commandments of Yahuah.

Chapter 5 Keep, therefore, my children, the Torah of Elohiym, And get singleness. And walk in guilelessness, Not playing the busybody with the business of your neighbor, But love Yahuah and your neighbor, Have compassion on the poor and weak. Bow down your back unto husbandry, And toil in labors in all manner of husbandry, Offering gifts to Yahuah with thanksgiving. For with the first-fruits of the earth will Yahuah bless you, even as He blessed all the saints from Abel even until now. For no other portion is given to you than of the fatness of the earth, whose fruits are raised by toil. For our father Ya'acob blessed me with blessings of the earth and of first-fruits. And Levi and Yahudah were glorified by Yahuah even among the sons of Ya'acob; for Yahuah gave them an inheritance, and to Levi He gave the priesthood, and to

Yahudah the kingdom. And do you therefore obey them, and walk in the singleness of your father; for unto Gad hath it been given to destroy the troops that are coming upon Yashar'el.

Chapter 6 Know you therefore, my children, that in the last times Your sons will forsake singleness, And will cleave unto insatiable desire; And leaving guilelessness will draw near to malice; And forsaking the commandments of Yahuah, They will cleave unto Beliar. And leaving husbandry, They will follow after their own wicked devices, And they shall be dispersed among the nations. And shall serve their enemies. And do you therefore give these commands to your children, that, if they transgress, they may the more quickly return to Yahuah; For He is merciful, and will deliver them, even to bring them back into their land.

Chapter 7 Behold, therefore, as you see, I am a hundred and twenty-six years old and am not conscious of committing any transgression. Except my wife I have not known any woman. I never committed fornication by the uplifting of my eyes. I drank not wine, to be led astray thereby; I coveted not any desirable thing that was my neighbor's. Guile arose not in my heart; A lie passed not through my lips. If any man were in distress I joined my sighs with his, And I shared my bread with the poor. I wrought Righteousness, all my days I kept truth, I loved Yahuah; Likewise also every man with all my heart. So do you also these things, my children, And every spirit of Beliar shall flee from you, And no deed of wicked men shall rule over you; And every wild beast shall you subdue, Since you have with you the Elohiym of shamaïm and earth And walk with men in singleness of heart. And having said these things, he commanded his sons that they should carry him up to Hebron, and bury him there in the cave with his fathers. And he stretched out his feet and died, at a good old age; with every limb sound, and with strength unabated, he slept the eternal sleep.

THE TESTAMENT OF ZEBULUN, THE SIXTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND LEAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Zebulun, which he enjoined on his sons before he died in the hundred and fourteenth year of his life, two years after the death of Yoceph. And he said to them: Harken to me, you sons of Zebulun, attend to the words of your father. I, Zebulun, was born a good gift to my parents. For when I was born my father was increased very exceedingly, both in flocks and herds, when with the straked rods he had his portion. I am not conscious that I have transgressed all my days, save in thought. Nor yet do I remember that I have done any iniquity, except the transgression of ignorance which I committed against Yoceph; for I covenanted with my brethren not to tell my father what had been done. But I wept in secret many days on account of Yoceph, for I feared my brethren, because they had all agreed that if any one should declare the secret, he should be slain. But when they wished to kill him, I adjured them much with tears not to be guilty of this transgression.

Chapter 2 For Simeon and Gad came out against Yoceph to kill him, and he said unto them with tears: Pity me, my brethren, have mercy upon the bowels of Ya'acob our father: lay not upon me your hands to shed innocent blood, for I have not transgressed against you. And if indeed I have transgressed, with chastening chastise me, my brethren but lay not upon me your hand, for the sake of Ya'acob our father. And as he spoke these words, wailing as he did so, I was unable to bear his lamentations, and began to weep, and my liver was poured out, and all the substance of my bowels was loosened. And I wept with Yoceph, and my heart sounded, and the joints of my body trembled, and I was not able to stand. And when Yoceph saw me weeping with him, and them coming against him to slay him, he fled behind me, beseeching them. But meanwhile Reuben arose and said: Come, my brethren, let us not slay him, but let us cast him into one of these dry pits, which our fathers dug and found no water. For for this cause Yahuah forbade that water should rise up in them, in order that Yoceph should be preserved. And they did so, until they sold him to the Ishmaelites.

Chapter 3 For in his price I had no share, my children. But Simeon and Gad and six other of our brethren took the price of Yoceph, and bought sandals for themselves, and their wives, and their children, saying: We will not eat of it, for it is the price of our brother's blood, but we will assuredly tread it under foot, because he said that he would be king over us, and so let us see what will become of his dreams. Therefore it is written in the writing of the Torah of Moses, that whosoever will not raise up seed to his brother, his sandal should be unloosed, and they should spit in his face. And the brethren of Yoceph wished not that their brother should live, and Yahuah loosed from them the sandal which they wore against Yoceph their brother. For when they came into Egypt they were unloosed by the servants of Yoceph outside the gate, and so they made obeisance to Yoceph after the fashion of King Pharaoh. And not only did they make obeisance to him, but were spit upon also, falling down before him forthwith, and so they were put to shame before the Egyptians. For after this the Egyptians heard all the evils that they had done to Yoceph.

Chapter 4 And after he was sold my brothers sat down to eat and drink. But I, through pity for Yoceph, did not eat, but watched the pit, since Yahudah feared lest Simeon, Dan, and Gad should rush off and slay him. But when they saw that I did not eat, they set me to watch him, till he was sold to the Ishmaelites. And when Reuben came and heard that while he was away Yoceph had been sold, he rent his garments, and mourning, said: How shall I look on the face of my father Ya'acob? And he took the money and ran after the merchants, but as he failed to find them he returned grieving. But the merchants had left the broad road and marched through the Troglodytes by a short cut. But Reuben was grieved, and ate no food that day. Dan therefore came to him and said: Weep not, neither grieve; for we have found what we can say to our father Ya'acob. Let us slay a kid of the goats, and dip in it the coat of Yoceph; and let us send it to Ya'acob, saying: Know, is this the coat of thy son? And they did so. For they stripped off from Yoceph his coat when they were selling him, and put upon him the garment of a slave. Now Simeon took the coat, and would not give it up, for he wished to rend it with his sword, as he was angry that Yoceph lived and that he had not slain him. Then we all rose up and said unto

him: If thou givest not up the coat, we will say to our father that thou alone didst this evil thing in Yashar'el. And so he gave it unto them, and they did even as Dan had said.

Chapter 5 And now, my children, I bid you to keep the commands of Yahuah, and to show mercy to your neighbors, and to have compassion towards all, not towards men only, but also towards beasts. For all this thing's sake Yahuah blessed me, and when all my brethren were sick, I escaped without sickness, for Yahuah knoweth the purposes of each. Have, therefore, compassion in your hearts, my children, because even as a man doeth to his neighbor, even so also will Yahuah do to him. For the sons of my brethren were sickening and were dying on account of Yoceph, because they showed not mercy in their hearts; but my sons were preserved without sickness, as you know. And when I was in the land of Canaan, by the sea-coast, I made a catch of fish for Ya'acob my father; and when many were choked in the sea, I continued unhurt.

Chapter 6 I was the first to make a boat to sail upon the sea, for Yahuah gave me understanding and wisdom therein. And I let down a rudder behind it, and I stretched a sail upon another upright piece of wood in the midst. And I sailed therein along the shores, catching fish for the house of my father until we came to Egypt. And through compassion I shared my catch with every stranger. And if a man were a stranger, or sick, or aged, I boiled the fish, and dressed them well, and offered them to all men, as every man had need, grieving with and having compassion upon them. Wherefore also Yahuah satisfied me with abundance of fish when catching fish; for he that shareth with his neighbor receiveth manifold more from Yahuah. For five years I caught fish and gave thereof to every man whom I saw, and sufficed for all the house of my father. And in the summer I caught fish, and in the winter I kept sheep with my brethren.

Chapter 7 Now I will declare unto you what I did. I saw a man in distress through nakedness in winter time, and had compassion upon him, and stole away a garment secretly from my father's house, and gave it to him who was in distress. Do you, therefore, my children, from that which Elohiym bestoweth upon you, show compassion and mercy without hesitation to all men, and give to every man with a good heart. And if you have not the wherewithal to give to him that needeth, have compassion for him in bowels of mercy. I know that my hand found not the wherewithal to give to him that needed, and I walked with him weeping for seven furlongs, and my bowels yearned towards him in compassion.

Chapter 8 Have, therefore, yourselves also, my children, compassion towards every man with mercy, that Yahuah also may have compassion and mercy upon you. Because also in the last days Elohiym will send His compassion on the earth, and wheresoever He findeth bowels of mercy He dwelleth in him. For in the degree in which a man hath compassion upon his neighbors, in the same degree hath Yahuah also upon him. And when we went down into Egypt, Yoceph bore no malice against us. To whom taking heed, do you also, my children, approve yourselves without malice, and love one another; and do not set down in account, each one of you, evil against his brother. For this breaketh unity and divideth all kindred, and troubleth the soul, and weareth away the countenance.

Chapter 9 Observe, therefore, the waters, and know when they flow together, they sweep along stones, trees, earth, and other things. But if they are divided into many streams, the earth swalloweth them up, and they vanish away. So shall you also be if you be divided. Be not ye, therefore, divided into two heads, for everything which Yahuah made hath but one head, and two shoulders, two hands, two feet, and all the remaining members. For I have learnt in the writing of my fathers, that You shall be divided in Yashar'el, And you shall follow two kings, And shall work every abomination. And your enemies shall lead you captive, And you shall be evil entreated among the nations, With many infirmities and tribulations. And after these things you shall remember Yahuah, and repent, And He shall cause you to return; for He is merciful and compassionate. And He setteth not down in account evil to the sons of men, because they are flesh, And the spirits of deceit deceive them in all their deeds. And after these things there shall arise unto you Yahuah Himself, the light of righteousness, And healing and compassion shall be in His wings. He shall redeem all the captivity of the sons of men from Beliar; And every spirit of deceit shall be trodden down; And he shall bring back all the nations into zeal for Him. And you shall return unto your land. And you shall see Him in Jerusalem, for His name's sake. 9 And again through the wickedness of your works shall you provoke Him to anger, And you shall be cast away by Him unto the time of consummation.

Chapter 10 And now, my children, grieve not that I am dying, nor be cast down in that I am coming to my end. For I shall rise again in the midst of you, as a ruler in the midst of his sons; and I shall rejoice in the midst of my tribe, as many as **shall keep the Torah of Yahuah**, and the commandments of Zebulun their father. But upon the unrighteous shall Yahuah bring eternal fire, and destroy them throughout all generations. But I am now hastening away to my rest, as did also my fathers. But do you fear Yahuah our Elohiym with all your strength all the days of your life. And when he had said these things he fell asleep, at a good old age. And his sons laid him in a wooden coffin. And afterwards they carried him up and buried him in Hebron, with his fathers.

THE TESTAMENT OF DAN, THE SEVENTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND BILHAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Dan, which he spake to his sons in his last days, in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. For he called together his family, and said: Hearken to my words, you sons of Dan; and give heed to the words of your father. I have proved in my heart, and in my whole life, that truth with just dealing is good and well pleasing to Elohiym, and that lying and anger are evil, because they teach man all wickedness. I confess, therefore, this day to you, my children, that in my heart I resolved on the death of Yoceph my brother, the true and good man. And I rejoiced that he was sold, because his father loved him more than us. For the spirit of jealousy and vainglory said to me: Thou thyself also art his son. And one of the spirits of Beliar stirred me up, saying: Take this sword, and with it slay Yoceph: so shall thy father love thee when he is dead. Now this is the spirit of anger that persuaded me to crush

Yoceph as a leopard crusheth a kid. But the Elohiym of my fathers did not suffer him to fall into my hands, so that I should find him alone and slay him, and cause a second tribe to be destroyed in Yashar'el.

Chapter 2 And now, my children, behold I am dying, and I tell you of a truth, that unless you keep yourselves from the spirit of lying and of anger, and love truth and longsuffering, you shall perish. For anger is blindness, and does not suffer one to see the face of any man with truth. For though it be a father or a mother, he behaveth towards them as enemies; though it be a brother, he knoweth him not; though it be a prophet of Yahuah, he disobeyeth him; though a righteous man, he regardeth him not; though a friend, he doth not acknowledge him. For the spirit of anger encompasseth him with the net of deceit, and blindeth his eyes, and through lying darkeneth his mind, and giveth him its own peculiar vision. And wherewith encompasseth it his eyes? With hatred of heart, so as to be envious of his brother.

Chapter 3 For anger is an evil thing, my children, for it troubleth even the soul itself. And the body of the angry man it maketh its own, and over his soul it getteth the mastery, and it bestoweth upon the body power that it may work all iniquity. And when the body does all these things, the soul justifieth what is done, since it seeth not aright. Therefore he that is wrathful, if he be a mighty man, hath a threefold power in his anger: one by the help of his servants; and a second by his wealth, whereby he persuadeth and overcometh wrongfully; and thirdly, having his own natural power he worketh thereby the evil. And though the wrathful man be weak, yet hath he a power twofold of that which is by nature; for wrath ever aideth such in Torahlessness. This spirit goeth always with lying at the right hand of Satan, that with cruelty and lying his works may be wrought.

Chapter 4 Understand ye, therefore, the power of wrath, that it is vain. For it first of all giveth provocation by word; then by deeds it strengtheneth him who is angry, and with sharp losses disturbeth his mind, and so stirreth up with great wrath his soul. Therefore, when any one speaketh against you, be not you moved to anger, and if any man praiseth you as holy men, be not uplifted: be not moved either to delight or to disgust. For first it pleaseth the hearing, and so maketh the mind keen to perceive the grounds for provocation; and then being enraged, he thinketh that he is justly angry. If you fall into any loss or ruin, my children, be not afflicted; for this very spirit maketh a man desire that which is perishable, in order that he may be enraged through the affliction. And if you suffer loss voluntarily, or involuntarily, be not vexed; for from vexation ariseth wrath with lying. Moreover, a twofold mischief is wrath with lying; and they assist one another in order to disturb the heart; and when the soul is continually disturbed, Yahuah departeth from it, and Beliar ruleth over it.

Chapter 5 Observe, therefore, my children, the commandments of Yahuah, And keep His Torah; Depart from wrath, And hate lying, That Yahuah may dwell among you, And Beliar may flee from you. Speak truth each one with his neighbor. So shall you not fall into wrath and confusion; But you shall be in Shalom, having the Elohiym of Shalom, So shall no war prevail over you. Love Yahuah through all your life, And one another with a true heart. I know that in

the last days you shall depart from Yahuah, And you shall provoke Levi unto anger, And fight against Yahudah; But you shall not prevail against them, For an angel of Yahuah shall guide them both; For by them shall Yashar'el stand. And whensoever you depart from Yahuah, you shall walk in all evil and work the abominations of the nations, going a-whoring after women of the Torahless ones, while with all wickedness the spirits of wickedness work in you. For I have read in the book of Enoch, the righteous, that your prince is Satan, and that all the spirits of wickedness and pride will conspire to attend constantly on the sons of Levi, to cause them to transgress before Yahuah. And my sons will draw near to Levi. And transgress with them in all things; And the sons of Yahudah will be covetous, Plundering other men's goods like lions. Therefore shall you be led away with them into captivity, And there shall you receive all the plagues of Egypt, And all the evils of the nations. And so when you return to Yahuah you shall obtain mercy, And He shall bring you into His sanctuary, And He shall give you Shalom. And there shall arise unto you from the tribe of Yahudah and of Levi the salvation of Yahuah; And he shall make war against Beliar. And execute an everlasting vengeance on our enemies; And the captivity shall he take from Beliar the souls of the saints, And turn disobedient hearts unto Yahuah, And give to them that call upon him eternal Shalom. And the saints shall rest in Eden, And in the New Jerusalem shall the righteous rejoice, And it shall be unto the glory of Elohiym for ever. And no longer shall Jerusalem endure desolation, Nor Yashar'el be led captive; For Yahuah shall be in the midst of it living amongst men, And the Holy One of Yashar'el shall reign over it in humility and in poverty; and he who believeth on Him shall reign amongst men in truth.

Chapter 6 And now, fear Yahuah, my children, and beware of Satan and his spirits. Draw near unto Elohiym and unto the angel that intercedeth for you, for he is a mediator between Elohiym and man, and for the Shalom of Yashar'el he shall stand up against the kingdom of the enemy. Therefore is the enemy eager to destroy all that call upon Yahuah. For he knoweth that upon the day on which Yashar'el shall repent, the kingdom of the enemy shall be brought to an end. For the very angel of Shalom shall strengthen Yashar'el, that it fall not into the extremity of evil. And it shall be in the time of the Torahlessness of Yashar'el, that Yahuah will not depart from them, but will transform them into a nation that doeth His will, for none of the angels will be equal unto him. And His name shall be in every place in Yashar'el, and among the nations. Keep, therefore, yourselves, my children, from every evil work, And cast away wrath and all lying, And love truth and long-suffering. And the things which you have heard from your father, do you also impart to your children that the Saviour of the nations may receive you; for he is true and long-suffering, meek and lowly, and **teacheth by his works the Torah of Elohiym. Depart, therefore, from all unrighteousness, and cleave unto the righteousness of Elohiym, and your race will be saved forever.** And bury me near my fathers.

Chapter 7 And when he had said these things he kissed them, and fell asleep at a good old age. And his sons buried him, And after that they carried up his bones, and placed them near Abraham, and Isaac, and Ya'acob. Nevertheless, Dan prophesied unto them that they should forget their Elohiym, and should be alienated from the land of their inheritance and from the race of Yashar'el, and from the family of their seed.

THE TESTAMENT OF NAPHTALI, THE EIGHTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND BILHAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the testament of Naphtali, which he ordained at the time of his death in the hundred and thirtieth year of his life. When his sons were gathered together in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, while still in good health, he made them a feast of food and wine. And after he was awake in the morning, he said to them, I am dying; and they believed him not. And as he glorified Yahuah, he grew strong and said that after yesterday's feast he should die. And he began then to say: Hear, my children, you sons of Naphtali, hear the words of your father. I was born from Bilhah, and because Rachel dealt craftily, and gave Bilhah in place of herself to Ya'acob, and she conceived and bare me upon Rachel's knees, therefore she called my name Naphtali. For Rachel loved me very much because I was born upon her lap; and when I was still young she was wont to kiss me, and say: May I have a brother of thine from mine own womb, like unto thee. Whence also Yoceph was like unto me in all things, according to the prayers of Rachel. Now my mother was Bilhah, daughter of Rotheus the brother of Deborah, Rebecca's nurse, who was born on one and the self-same day with Rachel. And Rotheus was of the family of Abraham, a Chaldean, Elohiym fearing, free-born, and noble. And he was taken captive and was bought by Laban; and he gave him Euna his handmaid to wife, and she bore a daughter, and called her name Zilpah, after the name of the village in which he had been taken captive. And next she bore Bilhah, saying: My daughter hastens after what is new, for immediately that she was born she seized the breast and hastened to suck it.

Chapter 2 And I was swift on my feet like the deer, and my father Ya'acob appointed me for all messages, and as a deer did he give me his blessing. For as the potter knoweth the vessel, how much it is to contain, and bringeth clay accordingly, so also doth Yahuah make the body after the likeness of the spirit, and according to the capacity of the body doth He implant the spirit. And the one does not fall short of the other by a third part of a hair; for by weight, and measure, and rule was all the creation made. And as the potter knoweth the use of each vessel, what it is meet for, so also doth Yahuah know the body, how far it will persist in goodness, and when it beginneth in evil. For there is no inclination or thought which Yahuah knoweth not, for He created every man after His own image. As a man's strength, so also is his work; and as his mind, so also is his skill; and as his purpose, so also is his achievement; and as his heart, so also is his mouth; as his eye, so also is his sleep; as his soul, so also is his word, either in the Torah of Yahuah or in the works of Beliar. And as there is a division between light and darkness, between seeing and hearing, so also is there a division between man and man, and between woman and woman; and it is not to be said that the one is like the other either in face or in mind. For Elohiym made all things good in their order, the five senses in the head, and He joined on the neck to the head, adding to it the hair also for comeliness and glory, then the heart for understanding, the belly for excrement, and the stomach for grinding, the windpipe for taking in the breath, the liver for wrath, the gall for bitterness, the spleen for laughter, the reins for prudence, the muscles of the loins for power, the lungs for drawing in, the loins for strength, and

so forth. So then, my children, let all your works be done in order with good intent in the fear of Elohiym, and do nothing disorderly in scorn or out of its due season. For if thou bid the eye to hear, it cannot; so neither while you are in darkness can you do the works of light.

Chapter 3 Be ye, therefore, not eager to corrupt your doings through covetousness or with vain words to beguile your souls; because if you keep silence in purity of heart, you shall understand how to hold fast the will of Elohiym, and to cast away the will of Beliar. Sun and moon and stars change not their order; **so do you also change not the Torah of Elohiym in the disorderliness of your doings.** The nations went astray, and forsook Yahuah, and changed their order, and obeyed stocks and stones, spirits of deceit. But you shall not be so, my children, recognizing in the firmament, in the earth, and in the sea, and in all created things, Yahuah who made all things, that you become not as Sodom, which changed the order of nature. In like manner the Watchers also changed the order of their nature, whom Yahuah cursed at the flood, on whose account He made the earth without inhabitants and fruitless. These things I say unto you, my children, for **I have read in the writing of Enoch** that you yourselves also shall depart from Yahuah, walking according to all the Torahlessness of the nations, and you shall do according to all the wickedness of Sodom. And Yahuah shall bring captivity upon you, and there shall you serve your enemies, and you shall be bowed down with every affliction and tribulation, until Yahuah has consumed you all. And after you have become minished and made few, you shall return and acknowledge Yahuah your Elohiym; and He shall bring you back into your land, according to His abundant mercy. And it shall be, that after that they come into the land of their fathers, they shall again forget Yahuah and become unrighteous. And Yahuah shall scatter them upon the face of all the earth, until the compassion of Yahuah shall come, a man working righteousness and working mercy unto all them that are afar off, and to them that are near.

Chapter 4 For in the fortieth year of my life, I saw a vision on the Mount of Olives, on the east of Jerusalem, that the sun and the moon were standing still. And behold Isaac, the father of my father, said to us; Run and lay hold of them, each one according to his strength; and to him that seizeth them will the sun and moon belong. And we all of us ran together, and Levi laid hold of the sun, and Yahudah outstripped the others and seized the moon, and they were both of them lifted up with them. And when Levi became as a sun, lo, a certain young man gave to him twelve branches of palm; and Yahudah was bright as the moon, and under their feet were twelve rays. And the two, Levi and Yahudah, ran, and laid hold of them. And, a bull upon the earth, with two great horns, and an eagle's wings upon its back; and we wished to seize him; but could not. But Yoceph came, and seized him, and ascended up with him on high. And I saw, for I was there, and behold a holy writing appeared to us, saying: Assyrians, Medes, Persians, Chaldeans, Syrians, shall possess in captivity the twelve tribes of Yashar'el.

Chapter 5 And again, after seven days, I saw our father Ya'acob standing by the sea of Jamnia, and we were with him. And behold, there came a ship sailing by, without sailors or pilot; and there was written upon the ship, The Ship of Ya'acob. And our father said to us: Come, let us embark on our ship. And when he had gone on board, there arose a vehement

storm, and a mighty tempest of wind; and our father, who was holding the helm, departed from us. And we, being tossed with the tempest, were borne along over the sea; and the ship was filled with water, and was pounded by mighty waves, until it was broken up. And Yoceph fled away upon a little boat, and we were all divided upon nine planks, and Levi and Yahudah were together. And we were all scattered unto the ends of the earth. Then Levi, girt about with sackcloth, prayed for us all unto Yahuah. And when the storm ceased, the ship reached the land as it were in Shalom. And, our father came, and we all rejoiced with one accord.

Chapter 6 These two dreams I told to my father; and he said to me: These things must be fulfilled in their season, after that Yashar'el hath endured many things. Then my father saith unto me: I believe Elohiym that Yoceph liveth, for I see always that Yahuah numbereth him with you, And he said, weeping: Ah me, my son Yoceph, thou livest, though I behold thee not, and thou seest not Ya'acob that begat thee. He caused me also, therefore, to weep by these words, and I burned in my heart to declare that Yoceph had been sold, but I feared my brethren.

Chapter 7 And lo! my children, I have shown unto you the last times, how everything shall come to pass in Yashar'el. Do you also, therefore, charge your children that they be united to Levi and to Yahudah; For through them shall salvation arise unto Yashar'el, And in them shall Ya'acob be blessed. For through their tribes shall Elohiym appear dwelling among men on earth, To save the race of Yashar'el, And to gather together the righteous from amongst the nations. If you work that which is good, my children, Both men and angels shall bless you; And Elohiym shall be glorified among the nations through you, And the devil shall flee from you, And the wild beasts shall fear you, And Yahuah shall love you, And the angels shall cleave to you. As a man who has trained a child well is kept in kindly remembrance: So also for a good work there is a good remembrance before Elohiym. But him that doeth not that which is good, Both angels and men shall curse, And Elohiym shall be dishonored among the nations through him, And the devil shall make him as his own peculiar instrument, And every wild beast shall master him, And Yahuah shall hate him. For the commandments of the Torah are twofold, And through prudence must they be fulfilled. For there is a season for a man to embrace his wife, And a season to abstain therefrom for his prayer. So, then, there are two commandments; and, unless they be done in due order, they bring very great transgression upon men. So also is it with the other commandments. **Be you therefore wise in Elohiym, my Children, and prudent, understanding the order of His commandments, and the Torah of every word, that Yahuah may love you.**

Chapter 8 And when he had charged them with many such words, he exhorted them that they should remove his bones to Hebron, and that they should bury him with his fathers. And when he had eaten and drunken with a merry heart, he covered his face and died. And his sons did according to all that Naphtali their father had commanded them.

THE TESTAMENT OF GAD THE NINTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND ZILPAH.

Chapter 1 The copy of the testament of Gad, what things he spake unto his sons, in the hundred and twenty fifth year of his life, saying unto them: Hearken, my children, I was the ninth son born to Ya'acob, and I was valiant in keeping the flocks. Accordingly I guarded at night the flock; and whenever the lion came, or the wolf, or any wild beast against the fold, I pursued it, and overtaking it I seized its foot with my hand and hurled it about a stone's throw, and so killed it. Now Yoceph, my brother was feeding the flock with us for upwards of thirty days, and being young, he fell sick by reason of the heat. And he returned to Hebron to our father, who made him lie down near him, because he loved him greatly. And Yoceph told our father that the sons of Zilpah and Bilhah were slaying the best of the flock and eating them against the judgement of Reuben and Yahudah. For he saw that I had delivered a lamb out of the mouth of a bear, and put the bear to death; but had slain the lamb, being grieved concerning it that it could not live, and that we had eaten it. And regarding this matter I was wroth with Yoceph until the day that he was sold, And the spirit of hatred was in me, and I wished not either to hear of Yoceph with the ears, or see him with the eyes because he rebuked us to our faces saying that we were eating of the flock without Yahudah. For whatsoever things he told our father, he believed him.

Chapter 2 I confess now my transgression, my children, that oftentimes I wished to kill him, because I hated him from my heart. Moreover, I hated him yet more for his dreams; and I wished to lick him out of the land of the living, even as an ox licketh up the grass of the field. Therefore I and Simeon sold him to the Ishmaelites for thirty pieces of gold, and ten of them we hid, and showed the twenty to our brethren And thus through covetousness we were bent on slaying him. And the Elohiym of my fathers delivered him from my hands, that I should not work Torahlessness in Yashar'el.

Chapter 3 And now, my children, **hearken to the words of truth to work righteousness, and all the Torah of the Most High**, and go not astray through the spirit of hatred, for it is evil in all the doings of men. Whatsoever a man doeth the hater abominateth him: and though a man worketh the Torah of Yahuah, he praiseth him not; though a man feareth Yahuah, and taketh pleasure in that which is righteous, he loveth him not. He dispraiseth the truth, he envieth him that prospereth, he welcometh evil-speaking, he loveth arrogance, for hatred blindeth his soul; as I also then looked on Yoceph.

Chapter 4 Beware, therefore, my children of hatred; for it worketh Torahlessness even against Yahuah Himself. For it will not hear the words of His commandments concerning the loving of one's neighbor, and it transgress against Elohiym. For if a brother stumble, it delighteth immediately to proclaim it to all men, and is urgent that he should be judged for it, and be punished and be put to death. And if it be a servant it stirreth him up against his master, and

with every affliction it deviseth against him if possibly he can be put to death, For hatred worketh with envy also against them that prosper: so long as it heareth of or seeth their success, it always languisheth. For as love would quicken even the dead, and would call back them that are condemned to die, so hatred would slay the living, and those that had transgressed venially it would not suffer to live. For the spirit of hatred worketh together with Satan, through hastiness of spirit, in all things to men's death; but the spirit of love worketh together with the Torah of Elohiym in long-suffering unto the salvation of men.

Chapter 5 Hatred, therefore, is evil, for it constantly maketh with lying, speaking against the truth; and it maketh small things to be great, and causeth the light to be darkness, and calleth the sweet bitter, and teacheth slander, and kindleth wrath, and stirreth up war, and violence and all covetousness; it filleth the heart with evils and devilish poison. These things, therefore, I say to you from experience, my children, that you may drive forth hatred, which is of the devil, and cleave to the love of Elohiym. Righteousness casteth out hatred, humility destroyeth envy. For he that is just and humble is ashamed to do what is unjust, being reproved not of another, but of his own heart, because Yahuah looketh on his inclination. He speaketh not against a holy man, because the fear of Elohiym overcometh hatred. For fearing lest he should offend Yahuah, he will not do wrong to any man, even in thought. These things I learnt at last, after I had repented concerning Yoceph. For true repentance after a righteous sort destroyeth ignorance, and driveth away the darkness, and enlighteneth the eyes, and giveth knowledge to the soul, and leadeth the mind to salvation. And those things which it hath not learnt from man, it knoweth through repentance. For Elohiym brought upon me a disease of the liver; and had not the prayers of Ya'acob my father succoured me, it had hardly failed but my spirit had departed, For by what things a man transgresseth, by the same also is he punished. Since, therefore, my liver was set mercilessly against Yoceph, in my liver too I suffered mercilessly, and was judged for eleven months, for so long a time as I had been angry against Yoceph.

Chapter 6 And now, my children, I exhort you, love you each one his brother, and put away hatred from your hearts, love one another in deed, and in word, and in the inclination of the soul. For in the presence of my father I spake with Shalom to Yoceph; and when I had gone out, the spirit of hatred darkened my mind, and stirred up my soul to slay him. Love ye, therefore, one another from the heart; and if a man transgress against thee, cast forth the poison of hate and speak with Shalom to him, and in thy soul hold not guile; and if he confess and repent, forgive him. But if he deny it, do not get into a passion with him, lest catching the poison from thee he take to swearing and so thou transgress doubly. Let not another man hear thy secrets when engaged in legal strife, lest he come to hate thee and become thy enemy, and commit a great transgression against thee; for oftentimes he addresseth thee guilefully or busieth himself about thee with wicked intent. And though he deny it and yet have a sense of shame when reproved, give over reproving him. For he who denieth may repent so as not again to wrong thee; yea, he may also honor thee, and fear and be at Shalom with thee. And if he be shameless and persist in his wrong-doing, even so forgive him from the heart, and leave to Elohiym the avenging.

Chapter 7 If a man prospereth more than you, do not be vexed, but pray also for him, that he may have perfect prosperity. For so it is expedient for you. And if he be further exalted, be not envious of him, remembering that all flesh shall die; and offer praise to Elohiym, who giveth things good and profitable to all men. Seek out the judgements of Yahuah, and thy mind will rest and be at Shalom. And though a man become rich by evil means, even as Esau, the brother of my father, be not jealous; but wait for the end of Yahuah. For if he taketh away from a man wealth gotten by evil means He forgiveth him if he repent, but the unrepentant is reserved for eternal punishment. For the poor man, if free from envy he pleaseth Yahuah in all things, is blessed beyond all men, because he hath not the travail of vain men. Put away, therefore, jealousy from your souls, and love one another with uprightness of heart.

Chapter 8 Do you also therefore tell these things to your children, that they honor Yahudah and Levi, for from them shall Yahuah raise up salvation to Yashar'el. For I know that at the last your children shall depart from Him, and shall walk in all wickedness, and affliction and corruption before Yahuah. And when he had rested for a little while, he said again; My children, obey your father, and bury me near to my fathers. And he drew up his feet, and fell asleep in Shalom. And after five years they carried him up to Hebron, and laid him with his fathers.

THE TESTAMENT OF ASHER, THE TENTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND ZILPAH

Chapter 1 The copy of the Testament of Asher, what things he spake to his sons in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. For while he was still in health, he said to them: Hearken, you children of Asher, to your father, and I will declare to you all that is upright in the sight of Yahuah. Two ways hath Elohiym given to the sons of men, and two inclinations, and two kinds of action, and two modes of action, and two issues. Therefore all things are by twos, one over against the other. For there are two ways of good and evil, and with these are the two inclinations in our breasts discriminating them. Therefore if the soul take pleasure in the good inclination, all its actions are in righteousness; and if it transgress it straightway repenteth. For, having its thoughts set upon righteousness, and casting away wickedness, it straightway overthroweth the evil, and uprooteth the transgression. But if it incline to the evil inclination, all its actions are in wickedness, and it driveth away the good, and cleaveth to the evil, and is ruled by Beliar; even though it work what is good, he perverteth it to evil. For whenever it beginneth to do good, he forceth the issue of the action into evil for him, seeing that the treasure of the inclination is filled with an evil spirit.

Chapter 2 A person then may with words help the good for the sake of the evil, yet the issue of the action leadeth to mischief. There is a man who showeth no compassion upon him who serveth his turn in evil; and this thing hath two aspects, but the whole is evil. And there is a man that loveth him that worketh evil, because he would prefer even to die in evil for his sake; and concerning this it is clear that it hath two aspects, but the whole is an evil work. Though indeed

he have love, yet is he wicked who concealeth what is evil for the sake of the good name, but the end of the action tendeth unto evil. Another stealeth, doeth unjustly, plundereth, defraudeth, and withal pitieth the poor: this too hath a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. He who defraudeth his neighbor provoketh Elohiym, and sweareth falsely against the Most High, and yet pitieth the poor: Yahuah who commandeth the Torah he setteth at nought and provoketh, and yet he refresheth the poor. He defileth the soul, and maketh happy the body; he killeth many, and pitieth a few: this, too, hath a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. Another committeth adultery and fornication, and abstaineth from meats, and when he fasteth he doeth evil, and by the power of his wealth overwhelmeth many; and notwithstanding his excessive wickedness he doeth the commandments: this, too, hath a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. Such men are hares; clean,- like those that divide the hoof, but in very deed are unclean. For Elohiym in the tables of the commandments hath thus declared.

Chapter 3 But do not ye, my children, wear two faces like unto them, of goodness and of wickedness; but cleave unto goodness only, for Elohiym hath his habitation therein, and men desire it. But from wickedness flee away, destroying the evil inclination by your good works; for they that are double-faced serve not Elohiym, but their own lusts, so that they may please Beliar and men like unto themselves.

Chapter 4 For good men, even they that are of single face, though they be thought by them that are double faced to transgress, are just before Elohiym. For many in killing the wicked do two works, of good and evil; but the whole is good, because he hath uprooted and destroyed that which is evil. One man hateth the merciful and unjust man, and the man who committeth adultery and fasteth: this, too, hath a two fold aspect, but the whole work is good, because he followeth Yahuah's example, in that he accepteth not the seeming good as the genuine good. Another desireth not to see a good day with them that riot, lest he defile his body and pollute his soul: this, too, is double-faced, but the whole is good. For such men are like to stags and to hinds, because in the manner of wild animals they seem to be unclean, but they are altogether clean; because they walk in zeal for Yahuah and abstain from what Elohiym also hateth and forbiddeth by His commandments, warding off the evil from the good.

Chapter 5 you see, my children, how that there are two in all things, one against the other, and the one is hidden by the other: in wealth is hidden covetousness, in conviviality drunkenness, in laughter, grief, in wedlock profligacy. Death succeedeth to life, dishonor to glory, night to day, and darkness to light; and all things are under the day, just things under life, unjust things under death; wherefore also eternal life awaiteth death. Nor may it be said that truth is a lie, nor right wrong; for all truth is under the light, even as all things are under Elohiym. All these things, therefore, I proved in my life, and **I wandered not from the truth of Yahuah, and I searched out the commandments of the Most High, walking according to all my strength with singleness of face unto that which is good.**

Chapter 6 Take heed, therefore, you also, my children, to the commandments of Yahuah, following the truth with singleness of face. For they that are double-faced are guilty of a twofold transgression; for they both do the evil thing and they have pleasure in them that do it, following the example of the spirits of deceit, and striving against mankind. **Do ye, therefore, my children, keep the Torah of Yahuah,** and give not heed unto evil as unto good; but look unto the thing that is really good, **and keep it in all commandments of Yahuah,** having your conversation therein, and resting therein. For the latter ends of men do show their righteousness or unrighteousness, when they meet the angels of Yahuah and of Satan. For when the soul departs troubled, it is tormented by the evil spirit which also it served in lusts and evil works. But if he is in Shalom with joy he meeteth the angel of Shalom, and he leadeth him into eternal life.

Chapter 7 Become not, my children, as Sodom, which transgressed against the angels of Yahuah, and perished for ever. For I know that you shall transgress, and be delivered into the hands of your enemies; and your land shall be made desolate, and your holy places destroyed, and you shall be scattered unto the four corners of the earth. And you shall be set at nought in the dispersion vanishing away as water. Until the Most High shall visit the earth, coming Himself as man, with men eating and drinking, and breaking the head of the dragon in the water. He shall save Yashar'el and all the nations, Elohiym speaking in the person of man. Therefore do you also, my children, tell these things to your children, that they disobey Him not. **For I have known that you shall assuredly be disobedient, and assuredly act unrighteous, not giving heed to the Torah of Yahuah, but to the commandments of men,** being corrupted through wickedness. And therefore shall you be scattered as Gad and Dan my brethren, and you shall know not your lands, tribe, and tongue. But Yahuah will gather you together in faith through His tender mercy, and for the sake of Abraham, Isaac, and Ya'acob.

Chapter 8 And when he had said these things unto them he commanded them, saying: Bury me in Hebron. And he fell asleep and died at a good old age. And his sons did as he had commanded them, and they carried him up to Hebron, and buried him with his fathers.

THE TESTAMENT OF YOCEPH, THE ELEVENTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND RACHEL.

Chapter 1 The copy of the Testament of Yoceph. When he was about to die he called his sons and his brethren together, and said to them: My brethren and my children, Hearken to Yoceph the beloved of Yashar'el; Give ear, my sons, unto your father. I have seen in my life envy and death, Yet I went not astray, but persevered in the truth of Yahuah. These my brethren hated me, but Yahuah loved me: They wished to slay me, but the Elohiym of my fathers guarded me: They let me down into a pit, and the Most High brought me up again. I was sold into slavery, and Yahuah of all made me free: I was taken into captivity, and His strong hand succoured me. I was beset with hunger, and Yahuah Himself nourished me. I was alone, and Elohiym comforted me:

I was sick, and Yahuah visited me: I was in prison, and my Elohiym showed favor unto me; In bonds, and He released me; Slandered, and He pleaded my cause; Bitterly spoken against by the Egyptians, and He delivered me; Envied by my fellow-slaves, and He exalted me.

Chapter 2 And this chief captain of Pharaoh entrusted to me his house. And I struggled against a shameless woman, urging me to transgress with her; but the Elohiym of Yashar'el my father delivered me from the burning flame. I was cast into prison, I was beaten, I was mocked; but Yahuah granted me to find mercy in the sight of the keeper of the prison. For Yahuah doth not forsake them that fear Him, Neither in darkness, nor in bonds, nor in tribulations, nor in necessities. For Elohiym is not put to shame as a man, Nor as the son of man is he afraid, Nor as one that is earth-born is He weak or affrighted. But in all those things doth He give protection, And in divers ways doth He comfort, Though for a little space He departeth to try the inclination of the soul. In ten temptations He showed me approved, And in all of them I endured; For endurance is a mighty charm, And patience giveth many good things.

Chapter 3 How often did the Egyptian woman threaten me with death! How often did she give me over to punishment, and then call me back and threaten me, and when I was unwilling to company with her, she said to me: Thou shalt be master of me, and all that is in my house, if thou wilt give thyself unto me, and thou shalt be as our master. But I remembered the words of my father, and going into my chamber, I wept and prayed unto Yahuah. And I fasted in those seven years, and I appeared to the Egyptians as one living delicately, for they that fast for Elohiym's sake receive beauty of face. And if my master were away from home, I drank no wine; nor for three days did I take my food, but I gave it to the poor and sick. And I sought Yahuah early, and I wept for the Egyptian woman of Memphis, for very unceasingly did she trouble me, for also at night she came to me under pretense of visiting me. And because she had no male child she pretended to regard me as a son, and so I prayed to Yahuah, and she bare a male child. And for a time she embraced me as a son, and I knew it not; but later, she sought to draw me into fornication. And when I perceived it I sorrowed unto death; and when she had gone out, I came to myself, and lamented for her many days, because I recognized her guile and her deceit. And I declared unto her the words of the Most High, if haply she would turn from her evil lust.

Chapter 4 Often, therefore, did she flatter me with words as a holy man, and guilefully in her talk praise my chastity before her husband, while desiring to ensnare me when we were alone. For she lauded me openly as chaste, and in secret she said unto me: Fear not my husband; for he is persuaded concerning thy chastity: for even should one tell him concerning us, he would not believe. Owing to all these things I lay upon the ground, and besought Elohiym that Yahuah would deliver me from her deceit. And when she had prevailed nothing thereby, she came again to me under the plea of instruction, that she might learn the word of Elohiym. And she said unto me: If thou willest that I should leave my idols, lie with me, and I will persuade my husband to depart from his idols, and **we will walk in the Torah of Yahuah**. And I said unto her: Yahuah willeth not that those who reverence Him should be in uncleanness, nor doth He take pleasure in them that commit adultery, but in those that approach Him with a pure heart and undefiled lips.

But she held her Shalom, longing to accomplish her evil desire. And I gave myself yet more to fasting and prayer, that Yahuah might deliver me from her.

Chapter 5 And again, at another time she said unto me: If thou wilt not commit adultery, I will kill my husband by poison; and take thee to be my husband. I therefore, when I heard this, rent my garments, and said unto her: Woman, reverence Elohiym, and do not this evil deed, lest thou be destroyed; for know indeed that I will declare this thy device unto all men. She therefore, being afraid, besought that I would not declare this device. And she departed soothing me with gifts, and sending to me every delight of the sons of men.

Chapter 6 And afterwards she sent me food mingled with enchantments. And when the eunuch who brought it came, I looked up and beheld a terrible man giving me with the dish a sword, and I perceived that her scheme was to beguile me. And when he had gone out I wept, nor did I taste that or any other of her food. So then after one day she came to me and observed the food, and said unto me: Why is it that thou hast not eaten of the food? And I said unto her: It is because thou hast filled it with deadly enchantments; and how saidst thou: I come not near to idols, but to Yahuah alone. Now therefore know that the Elohiym of my father hath revealed unto me by His angel thy wickedness, and I have kept it to convict thee, if haply thou mayst see and repent. But that thou mayst learn that the wickedness of the unrighteous hath no power over them that worship Elohiym with chastity, behold I will take of it and eat before thee. And having so said, I prayed thus: The Elohiym of my fathers and the angel of Abraham, be with me; and ate. And when she saw this she fell upon her face at my feet, weeping; and I raised her up and admonished her. And she promised to do this iniquity no more.

Chapter 7 But her heart was still set upon evil, and she looked around how to ensnare me, and sighing deeply she became downcast, though she was not sick. And when her husband saw her, he said unto her: Why is thy countenance fallen? And she said unto him: I have a pain in my heart, and the groanings of my spirit oppress me; and so he comforted her who was not sick. Then, accordingly seizing an opportunity, she rushed unto me while her husband was yet without, and said unto me: I will hang myself, or cast myself over a cliff, if thou wilt not lie with me. And when I saw the spirit of Beliar was troubling her, I prayed unto Yahuah, and said unto her: Why, wretched woman, art thou troubled and disturbed, blinded through, transgressions? Remember that if thou kill thyself, Asteho, the concubine of thy husband, thy rival, will beat thy children, and thou wilt destroy thy memorial from off the earth. And she said unto me: Lo, then thou lovest me; let this suffice me: only strive for my life and my children, and I expect that I shall enjoy my desire also. But she knew not that because of my master I spake thus, and not because of her. For if a man hath fallen before the passion of a wicked desire and become enslaved by it, even as she, whatever good thing he may hear with regard to that passion, he receiveth it with a view to his wicked desire.

Chapter 8 I declare, therefore, unto you, my children, that it was about the sixth hour when she departed from me; and I knelt before Yahuah all day, and all the night; and about dawn I rose up, weeping the while and praying for a release from her. At last, then, she laid hold of my

garments, forcibly dragging me to have connection with her. When, therefore, I saw that in her madness she was holding fast to my garment, I left it behind, and fled away naked. And holding fast to the garment she falsely accused me, and when her husband came he cast me into prison in his house; and on the morrow he scourged me and sent me into Pharaoh's prison. And when I was in bonds, the Egyptian woman was oppressed with grief, and she came and heard how I gave thanks unto Yahuah and sang praises in the abode of darkness, and with glad voice rejoiced, glorifying my Elohiym that I was delivered from the lustful desire of the Egyptian woman.

Chapter 9 And often hath she sent unto me saying: Consent to fulfill my desire, and I will release thee from thy bonds, and I will free thee from the darkness. And not even in thought did I incline unto her. For Elohiym loveth him who in a den of wickedness combines fasting with chastity, rather than the man who in kings' chambers combines luxury with license. And if a man liveth in chastity, and desireth also glory, and the Most High knoweth that it is expedient for him, He bestoweth this also upon me. How often, though she were sick, did she come down to me at unlooked for times, and listened to my voice as I prayed! And when I heard her groanings I held my Shalom. For when I was in her house she was wont to bare her arms, and breasts, and legs, that I might lie with her; for she was very beautiful, splendidly adorned in order to beguile me. And Yahuah guarded me from her devices.

Chapter 10 You see, therefore, my children, how great things patience worketh, and prayer with fasting. So you too, if you follow after chastity and purity with patience and prayer, with fasting in humility of heart, Yahuah will dwell among you, because He loveth chastity. And wheresoever the Most High dwelleth, even though envy, or slavery, or slander befall a man, Yahuah who dwelleth in him, for the sake of his chastity not only delivereth him from evil, but also exalteth him even as me. For in every way the man is lifted up, whether in deed, or in word, or in thought. My brethren knew how my father loved me, and yet I did not exalt myself in my mind: although I was a child, I had the fear of Elohiym in my heart; for I knew that all things would pass away. And I did not raise myself against them with evil intent, but I honored my brethren; and out of respect for them, even when I was being sold, I refrained from telling the Ishmaelites that I was a son of Ya'acob, a great man and a mighty.

Chapter 11 Do you also, my children, have the fear of Elohiym in all your works before your eyes, and honor your brethren. **For every one who doeth the Torah of Yahuah shall be loved by Him.** And when I came to the Indopolitae with the Ishmaelites, they asked me, saying: Art thou a slave? And I said that I was a home-born slave, that I might not put my brethren to shame. And the eldest of them said unto me: Thou art not a slave, for even thy appearance doth make it manifest. But I said that I was their slave. Now when we came into Egypt they strove concerning me, which of them should buy me and take me. Therefore it seemed good to all that I should remain in Egypt with the merchant of their trade, until they should return bringing merchandise. And Yahuah gave me favor in the eyes of the merchant, and he entrusted unto me his house. And Elohiym blessed him by my means, and increased him in gold and silver and in household servants. And I was with him three months and five days.

Chapter 12 And about that time the Memphian woman, the wife of Pentephri, came down in a chariot, with great pomp, because she had heard from her eunuchs concerning me. And she told her husband that the merchant had become rich by means of a young Hebrew, and they say that he had assuredly been stolen out of the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, render justice unto him, and take away the youth to thy house; so shall the Elohiym of the Hebrews bless thee, for grace from shamaïym is upon him.

Chapter 13 And Pentephris was persuaded by her words, and commanded the merchant to be brought, and said unto him: What is this that I hear concerning thee, that thou stealest persons out of the land of Canaan, and sellest them for slaves? But the merchant fell at his feet, and besought him, saying: I beseech thee, my master, I know not what thou sayest. And Pentephris said unto him: Whence, then, is the Hebrew slave? And he said: The Ishmaelites entrusted him unto me until they should return. But he believed him not, but commanded him to be stripped and beaten. And when he persisted in this statement, Pentephris said: Let the youth be brought. And when I was brought in, I did obeisance to Pentephris for he was third in rank of the officers of Pharaoh. And he took me apart from him, and said unto me: Art thou a slave or free? And I said: A slave. And he said: Whose? And I said: The Ishmaelites. And he said: How didst thou become their slave? And I said: They bought me out of the land of Canaan. And he said unto me: Truly thou liest; and straightway he commanded me to be stripped and beaten.

Chapter 14 Now the Memphian woman was looking through a window at me while I was being beaten, for her house was near, and she sent unto him saying: Thy judgement is unjust; for thou dost punish a free man who hath been stolen, as though he were a transgressor. And when I made no change in my statement, though I was beaten, he ordered me to be imprisoned, until, he said, the owners of the boy should come. And the woman said unto her husband: Wherefore dost thou detain the captive and well-born lad in bonds, who ought rather to be set at liberty, and be waited upon? For she wished to see me out of a desire of transgression, but I was ignorant concerning all these things. And he said to her: It is not the custom of the Egyptians to take that which belongeth to others before proof is given. This, therefore, he said concerning the merchant; but as for the lad, he must be imprisoned.

Chapter 15 Now after four and twenty days came the Ishmaelites; for they had heard that Ya'acob my father was mourning much concerning me. And they came and said unto me: How is it that thou saidst that thou wast a slave? and lo, we have learnt that thou art the son of a mighty man in the land of Canaan, and thy father still mourneth for thee in sackcloth and ashes. When I heard this my bowels were dissolved and my heart melted, and I desired greatly to weep, but I restrained myself, that I should not put my brethren to shame. And I said unto them, I know not, I am a slave. Then, therefore, they took counsel to sell me, that I should not be found in their hands. For they feared my father, lest he should come and execute upon them a grievous vengeance. For they had heard that he was mighty with Elohiym and with men. Then

said the merchant unto them: Release me from the judgement of Pentiphri. And they came and requested me, saying: Say that thou wast bought by us with money, and he will set us free.

Chapter 16 Now the Memphian woman said to her husband: Buy the youth; for I hear, said she, that they are selling him. And straightway she sent a eunuch to the Ishmaelites, and asked them to sell me. But since the eunuch would not agree to buy me at their price he returned, having made trial of them, and he made known to his mistress that they asked a large price for their slave. And she sent another eunuch, saying: Even though they demand two minas, give them, do not spare the gold; only buy the boy, and bring him to me. The eunuch therefore went and gave them eighty pieces of gold, and he received me; but to the Egyptian woman he said: I have given a hundred. And though I knew this I held my Shalom, lest the eunuch should be put to shame.

Chapter 17 You see, therefore, my children, what great things I endured that I should not put my brethren to shame. Do you also, therefore love one another, and with long-suffering hide you one another's faults. For Elohiym delighteth in the unity of brethren, and in the purpose of a heart that takes pleasure in love. And when my brethren came into Egypt they learnt that I had returned their money unto them, and upbraided them not, and comforted them. And after the death of Ya'acob my father I loved them more abundantly, and all things whatsoever he commanded I did very abundantly for them, And I suffered them not to be afflicted in the smallest matter; and all that was in my hand I gave unto them. And their children were my children, and my children as their servants; and their life was my life, and all their suffering was my suffering, and all their sickness was my infirmity. My land was their land, and their counsel my counsel. And I exalted not myself among them in arrogance because of my worldly glory, but I was among them as one of the least.

Chapter 18 If you also, **therefore, walk in the commandments of Yahuah**, my children, He will exalt you there, and will bless you with good things for ever and ever. And if any one seeketh to do evil unto you, do well unto him, and pray for him, and you shall be redeemed of Yahuah from all evil. For, behold, you see that out of my humility and long-suffering I took unto wife the daughter of the priest of Heliopolis. And a hundred talents of gold were given me with her, and Yahuah made them to serve me. And He gave me also beauty as a flower beyond the beautiful ones of Yashar'el; and He preserved me unto old age in strength and in beauty, because I was like in all things to Ya'acob.

Chapter 19 Hear ye, therefore, me vision which I saw. I saw twelve hearts feeding. And nine of them were dispersed. Now the three were preserved, but on the following day they also were dispersed. And I saw that the three hearts became three lambs, and they cried to Yahuah, and He brought them forth into a flourishing and well watered place, yea He brought them out of darkness into light. And there they cried unto Yahuah until there gathered together unto them the nine hearts, and they became as twelve sheep, and after a little time they increased and became many flocks. And after these things I saw and behold, twelve bulls were sucking one cow, which produced a sea of milk, and there drank thereof the twelve flocks and innumerable

herds. And the horns of the fourth bull went up unto shamaïym and became as a wall for the flocks, and in the midst of the two horns there grew another horn. And I saw a bull calf which surrounded them twelve times, and it became a help to the bulls wholly. And I saw in the midst of the horns a virgin wearing a many-colored garment, and from her went forth a lamb; and on his right was as it were a lion; and all the beasts and all the reptiles rushed against him, and the lamb overcame them and destroyed them. And the bulls rejoiced because of him, and the cow and the hearts exulted together with them. And these things must come to pass in their season. **Do you therefore, my children, observe the commandments of Yahuah**, and honor Levi and Yahudah; for from them shall arise unto you the Lamb of Elohiym, who taketh away the transgression of the world. One who saveth all the nations and Yashar'el. For His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, which shall not pass away; but my kingdom among you shall come to an end as a watcher's hammock, which after the summer disappeareth.

Chapter 20 For I know that after my death the Egyptians will afflict you, but Elohiym will avenge you, and will bring you into that which He promised to your fathers. But you shall carry up my bones with you; for when my bones are being taken up thither, Yahuah shall be with you in light, and Beliar shall be in darkness with the Egyptians. And carry you up Asenath your mother to the Hippodrome, and near Rachel your mother bury her. And when he had said these things he stretched out his feet, and died at a good old age. And all Yashar'el mourned for him, and all Egypt, with a great mourning. And when the children of Yashar'el went out of Egypt, they took with them the bones of Yoceph, and they buried him in Hebron with his fathers, and the years of his life were one hundred and ten years.

THE TESTAMENT OF BENYAMIN, THE TWELFTH SON OF YA'ACOB AND RACHEL

Chapter 1 The copy of the words of Benyamin, which he commanded his sons to observe, after he had lived a hundred and twenty-five years. And he kissed them, and said: As Isaac was born to Abraham in his old age, so also was I to Ya'acob. And since Rachel, my mother died in giving me birth, I had no milk; therefore I was suckled by Bilhah her handmaid. For Rachel remained barren for twelve years after she had borne Yoceph; and she prayed Yahuah with fasting twelve days, and she conceived and bare me. For my father loved Rachel dearly, and prayed that he might see two sons born from her. Therefore was I called Benyamin, that is, a son of days.

Chapter 2 And when I went into Egypt, to Yoceph, and my brother recognized me, he said unto me: What did they tell my father when they sold me? And I said unto him, They dabbled thy coat with blood and sent it, and said: Know whether this be thy son's coat. And Yoceph said unto me: Even so, brother, the Canaanite merchants stole me by force, And it came to pass that as they went on their way they concealed my garment, as though a wild beast had met me and slain me. And so his associates sold me to the Ishmaelites. And they did not lie in saying this. For he wished to conceal from me the deeds of my brethren. And he called to him his brethren and said: Do not tell my father what you have done unto me, but tell him as I have told

Benjamin. And let the thoughts among you be such, and let not these things come to the heart of my father.

Chapter 3 Do you also, therefore, my children, love Yahuah Elohiym of shamaïym and earth, and keep His commandments, following the example of the good and holy man Yoceph. And let your mind be unto good, even as you know me; for he that hath his mind right seeth all things rightly. Fear you Yahuah, and love your neighbor; and even though the spirits of Beliar claim you to afflict you with every evil, yet shall they not have dominion over you, even as they had not over Yoceph my brother. How many men wished to slay him, and Elohiym shielded him! For he that feareth Elohiym and loveth his neighbor cannot be smitten by the spirit of Beliar, being shielded by the fear of Elohiym. Nor can he be ruled over by the device of men or beasts, for he is helped by Yahuah through the love which he hath towards his neighbor. For Yoceph also besought our father that he would pray for his brethren, that Yahuah would not impute to them as transgression whatever evil they had done unto him. And thus Ya'acob cried out: My good child, thou hast prevailed over the bowels of thy father Ya'acob. And he embraced him, and kissed him for two hours, saying: In thee shall be fulfilled the prophecy of shamaïym concerning the Lamb of Elohiym, and Saviour of the world, and that a blameless one shall be delivered up for Torahless men, and a blameless one shall die for unrighteous men in the blood of the covenant. for the salvation of the nations and of Yashar'el, and shall destroy Beliar and his servants.

Chapter 4 See ye, therefore, my children, the end of the good man? Be followers of his compassion, therefore, with a good mind, that you also may wear crowns of glory. For the good man hath not a dark eye; for he showeth mercy to all men, even though they be transgressors. And though they devise with evil intent concerning him, by doing good he overcometh evil, being shielded by Elohiym: and he loveth the righteous as his own soul. If any one is glorified, he envieth him not; if any one is enriched, he is not jealous; if any one is valiant, he praiseth him; the virtuous man he laudeth, on the poor man he hath mercy; on the weak he hath compassion; unto Elohiym he singeth praises. As for him who hath the fear of Elohiym, he protecteth him as with a shield; him that loveth Elohiym he helpeth; him that rejecteth the Most High he admonisheth and turneth back; and him that hath the grace of a good spirit he loveth as his own soul.

Chapter 5 If, therefore, you also have a good mind, then will both wicked men be at Shalom with you, and the profligate will reverence you and turn unto good; and the covetous will not only cease from their inordinate desire, but even give the objects of their covetousness to them that are afflicted. If you do well, even the unclean spirits will flee from you; and the beasts will dread you. For where there is reverence for good works and light in the mind, even darkness fleeth away from him. For if any one does violence to a holy man, he repenteth; for the holy man is merciful to his reviler, and holdeth his Shalom. And if any one betrayeth a righteous man, the righteous man prayeth: though for a little he be humbled, yet not long after he appeareth far more glorious, as was Yoceph my brother.

Chapter 6 The inclination of the good man is not in the power of the deceit of the spirit of Beliar, for the angel of Shalom guideth his soul. And he gazeth not passionately upon corruptible things, nor gathereth together riches through a desire of pleasure. He delighteth not in pleasure, he grieveth for not his neighbor, he sateth not himself with luxuries, he erreth not in the uplifting of the eyes, Yahuah is his portion. The good inclination receiveth not glory nor dishonor from men, and it knoweth not any guile, or lie, or fighting or reviling; for Yahuah dwelleth in him and lighteth up his soul, and he rejoiceth towards all men alway. The good mind hath not two tongues, of blessing and of cursing, of contumely and of honor, of sorrow and of joy, of quietness and of confusion, of hypocrisy and of truth, of poverty and of wealth; but it hath one disposition, uncorrupt and pure, concerning all men. It hath no double sight, nor double hearing; for in everything which he doeth, or speaketh, or seeth, he knoweth that Yahuah looketh on his soul. And he cleanseth his mind that he may not be condemned by men as well as by Elohiym. And in like manner the works of Beliar are twofold, and there is no singleness in them.

Chapter 7 Therefore, my children, I tell you, flee the malice of Beliar; for he giveth a sword to them that obey him. And the sword is the mother of seven evils. First the mind conceiveth through Beliar, and first there is bloodshed; secondly ruin; thirdly, tribulation; fourthly, exile; fifthly, dearth; sixthly, panic; seventhly, destruction. Therefore was Cain also delivered over to seven vengeancees by Elohiym, for in every hundred years Yahuah brought one plague upon him. And when he was two hundred years old he began to suffer, and in the nine-hundredth year he was destroyed. For on account of Abel, his brother, with all the evils was he judged, but Lamech with seventy times seven. Because forever those who are like Cain in envy and hatred of brethren, shall be punished with the same judgment.

Chapter 8 And do ye, my children, flee evil-doing, envy, and hatred of brethren, and cleave to goodness and love. He that hath a pure mind in love, looketh not after a woman with a view to fornication; for he hath no defilement in his heart, because the Spirit of Elohiym resteth upon him. For as the sun is not defiled by shining on dung and mire, but rather drieth up both and driveth away the evil smell; so also the pure mind, though encompassed by the defilements of earth, rather cleanseth them and is not itself defiled.

Chapter 9 And I believe that there will be also evil-doings among you, **from the words of Enoch the righteous**: that you shall commit fornication with the fornication of Sodom, and shall perish, all save a few, and shall renew wanton deeds with women; and the kingdom of Yahuah shall not be among, you, for straightway He shall take it away. Nevertheless the temple of Elohiym shall be in your portion, and the last temple shall be more glorious than the first. And the twelve tribes shall be gathered together there, and all the nations, until the Most High shall send forth His salvation in the visitation of an only begotten prophet. And He shall enter into the first temple, and there shall the Master be treated with outrage, and He shall be lifted up upon a tree. And the veil of the temple shall be rent, and the Spirit of Elohiym shall pass on to the nations as fire poured forth. And He shall ascend from Hades and shall pass from earth into shamaïym. And I know how lowly He shall be upon earth, and how glorious in shamaïym.

Chapter 10 Now when Yoceph was in Egypt, I longed to see his figure and the form of his countenance; and through the prayers of Ya'acob my father I saw him, while awake in the daytime, even his entire figure exactly as he was. And when he had said these things, he said unto them: Know ye, therefore, my children, that I am dying. Do ye, therefore, truth and righteousness each one to his neighbor, and judgment unto confirmation, **and keep the Torah of Yahuah and his commandments**. For these things do I leave you instead of inheritance. Do you also, therefore, give them to your children for an everlasting possession; for so did both Abraham, and Isaac, and Ya'acob. For all these things they gave us for an inheritance, saying: **Keep the commandments of Elohiym**, until Yahuah shall reveal His salvation to all nations. And then shall you see Enoch, Noah, and Shem, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Ya'acob, rising on the right hand in gladness. Then shall we also rise, each one over our tribe, worshipping the King of shamaïym, who appeared upon earth in the form of a man in humility. And as many as believe on Him on the earth shall rejoice with Him. Then also all men shall rise, some unto glory and some unto shame. And Yahuah shall judge Yashar'el first, for their unrighteousness; for when He appeared as Elohiym in the flesh to deliver them they believed Him not. And then shall He judge all the nations, as many as believed Him not when He appeared upon earth. And He shall convict Yashar'el through the chosen ones of the nations, even as He reproved Esau through the Midianites, who deceived their brethren, so that they fell into fornication, and idolatry; and they were alienated from Elohiym, becoming therefore children in the portion of them that fear Yahuah. If you therefore, my children, **walk in holiness according to the commandments of Yahuah**, you shall again dwell securely with me, and all Yashar'el shall be gathered unto Yahuah.

Chapter 11 And I shall no longer be called a ravening wolf on account of your ravages, but a worker of Yahuah, distributing food to them that work what is good. And there shall rise up from my seed in the latter times one beloved of Yahuah, hearing upon the earth His voice and a doer of the good pleasure of His will, enlightening with new knowledge all the nations, even the light of knowledge, bursting in upon Yashar'el for salvation and tearing away from them like a wolf, and giving to the synagogue of the nations. Until the consummation of the age shall he be in the synagogues of the nations, and among their rulers, as a strain of music in the mouth of all. And he shall be inscribed in the holy books, both his work and his word, and he shall be a chosen one of Elohiym for ever. And through them he shall go to and fro as Ya'acob my father, saying: He shall fill up that which lacketh of thy tribe.

Chapter 12 And when he finished his words, he said: I command you, my children, carry up my bones out of Egypt, and bury me at Hebron, near my fathers. So Benyamin died a hundred and twenty-five years old, at a good old age, and they placed him in a coffin. And in the ninety-first year from the entrance of the children of Yashar'el into Egypt, they and their brethren brought up the bones of their fathers secretly during the Canaanitish war; and they buried them in Hebron, by the feet of their fathers. And they returned from the land of Canaan and dwelt in Egypt until the day of their departure from the land of Egypt.